

Year A, Week 13, March 2, 2008

John 11: 1-45; Jesus brings Lazarus back to life

Hymn Suggestions: *My God is So Big, So Strong, and So Mighty, There's Nothing My God Cannot Do*

Figures Needed:

- Jesus figure (with arms extended)
- Several disciples
- 2 female figures for Mary and Martha
- 1 male figure for Lazarus
- optional: strips of white cloth to wrap up Lazarus
- rock for tomb// tomb arrangement (double-check to see if this is there.)

Story:

(Place Jesus and disciples down.) Jesus and his disciples left Judea because some of the religious leaders were going to stone him. But while he was away, he received a message from his friends Mary and Martha telling him their brother Lazarus was very sick. They wrote him, "Lord, the one you love is ill."

Jesus decided that this illness could bring glory to God. So he waited a few days and then told his disciples that he wanted to go back to Judea.

They said, "But, Lord! We left that place because they wanted to stone you!"

Jesus told them, "We're going back because our friend Lazarus is sleeping. I need to wake him up."

The disciples told him, "I don't get it. If he's sleeping, then he'll be fine."

So he told them, "What I mean is, Lazarus is dead. I'm glad you will get to see this, so that you will believe in me. Now let's go."

The disciple Thomas said, "Let's go with Jesus. If Jesus dies, we'll die with him."

When they got to Bethany, they discovered that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. There were many people there to comfort Mary and Martha. *(Add Martha.)*

Martha told Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. But even now, I know that God will give you whatever you ask for."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said, "I know he will rise as part of the resurrection, when God brings us all back to life."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and life. Whoever believes in me, will never die. Do you believe this?"

She told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the son of God."

Jesus and Martha walked toward the house, where they saw Mary. (*Add Mary.*)

Mary told him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." Mary and many others were weeping.

Jesus asked, "Where have you laid the body?" And as they led Jesus to the tomb, he began to cry.

Some people said, "See how Jesus loved Lazarus!" Others said, "If Jesus could bring sight to that man's blind eyes, surely he could have healed Lazarus!"

Jesus walked to the tomb. He said, "Take away the stone."

Martha said, "It's already been four days. His body will smell bad."

But Jesus said, "As I told you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God."

As people rolled away the stone, Jesus prayed, "Father, I thank you for listening to me. I pray that all who are here will believe that you sent me here." Then he called out, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus did come out, still wrapped up in his grave clothes.

Jesus told the people, "Untie this man and let him go."

Some of the people there believed in Jesus. Others went to talk to the Pharisees, who wondered what they should do about Jesus.

Questions (with no response):

I wonder ... what it means that Jesus cries?

I wonder ... if Jesus loves all of us that much?

I wonder ... if it would be scary to see someone be raised from the dead.