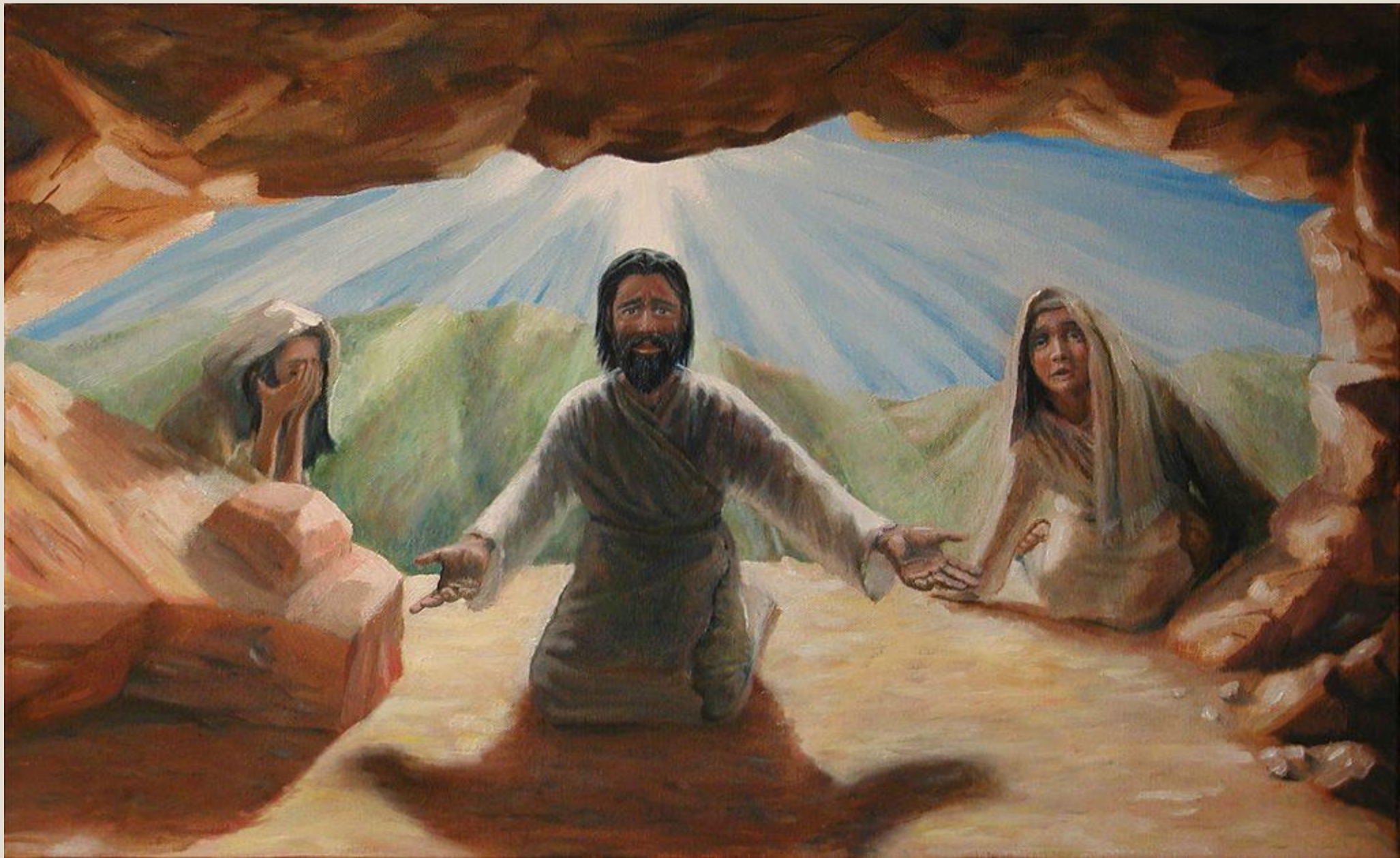




GOSPEL REFLECTION

5th Sunday of Lent (A)



The Gospel according to St John

Martha and her sister Mary sent a message to the Lord and told him that his good friend Lazarus was sick. When Jesus heard this he said, "His sickness won't end in death. It will bring glory to God and his Son."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and brother. But he stayed where he was for two days. Then he said to his disciples, "Now we'll go back to Judea."

When Jesus got to Bethany, he found Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus had arrived, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed in the house.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask." Jesus told her, "Your brother will live again!"

Martha answered, "I know that he will be raised to life on the last day, when all the dead are raised." Jesus then said, "I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live even if they die and everyone who lives because of their faith in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes Lord!" she replied. "I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world."

Many people had come to comfort Mary, and when they saw her quickly leave the house, they thought she was going out to the tomb to cry, so they followed her.





Mary went to where Jesus was. As soon as she saw him, she kneeled at His feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw that Mary and the people with her were crying he was terribly upset and asked, "Where have you put his body?"

They replied, "Lord, come and you will see." Jesus started crying and the people said, "See how much he loved Lazarus." Some of them said, "He gives sight to the blind. Why couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was terribly upset. So he went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone rolled against the entrance. He told the people to roll the stone away. But Martha said, "Lord, you know that Lazarus has been dead for four days, there will be a bad smell. Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you had faith, you would see the glory of God?"

After the stone had been rolled aside, Jesus looked up towards heaven and prayed, "Father, I thank you for answering my prayer. I know that you always answer my prayers, but I said this so the people here would believe that you sent me."

When Jesus had finished praying, he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth, and a cloth that covered his face. Jesus told the people, "Untie him and let him go."

Many of the people who came to visit Mary saw the things that Jesus did, and they put their faith in Him.

**The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Activity

- Choose another part of scripture that describes one of Jesus' miracles. Create stick puppets for the main characters and tell the story using your puppets. [Click here](#) for some ideas for your puppets.



Prayer for 5th Sunday of Lent (A)

For those whose lives are broken by distress
May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by fear
May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by anger
May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by pain
May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by illness
May the God of healing restore you

For those whose lives are broken by sin
May the God of healing restore you

God of healing, gently touch these lives with your Spirit.
Bring warmth and comfort, life and wholeness and restoration into fractured lives and souls.
Amen.

Sources

Page 2 image - The Raising of Lazarus by David Zelenka

Page 3 image - The Raising of Lazarus by David Zelenka

Page 4 image - <https://hs-smm.org/>

Page 5 link - <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/anytime.html>

Page 6 prayer – adapted from material found on https://www.faithandworship.com/liturgy_Lent_5.htm