

Getting Ready for Sunday!



Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11:1-45



The Death of Lazarus

This is the fifth Sunday of Lent.

We are moving closer to the events and celebrations of Holy Week and Easter.

The readings of the Sundays of Lent lead us gently to this celebration as we journey with Jesus and His disciples.

Jesus' disciples were anxious when they heard that he was returning to an area close to Jerusalem as they knew that the authorities were watching Him very closely and that the threat of death was very real.

However, Jesus is always available to His beloved! He returned to His friends: Mary and Martha as they mourned the loss of their brother Lazarus.

Thomas vows willingness to die with Jesus if he needs be!

However, where will he be when Jesus is captured?

Martha announces her belief that Jesus is the Messiah.

Jesus responds to her by raising Lazarus from the dead.

When we look at the tomb and Lazarus's binding, it is very much like what will happen to Jesus when He dies: He too will rise.

Scripture is the living Word of God.

It speaks to us with a message fresh for us today!

**It has a message for our lives today – a message of hope
and with challenge!**



What is the passage following saying to you today?

It may speak differently to you tomorrow!

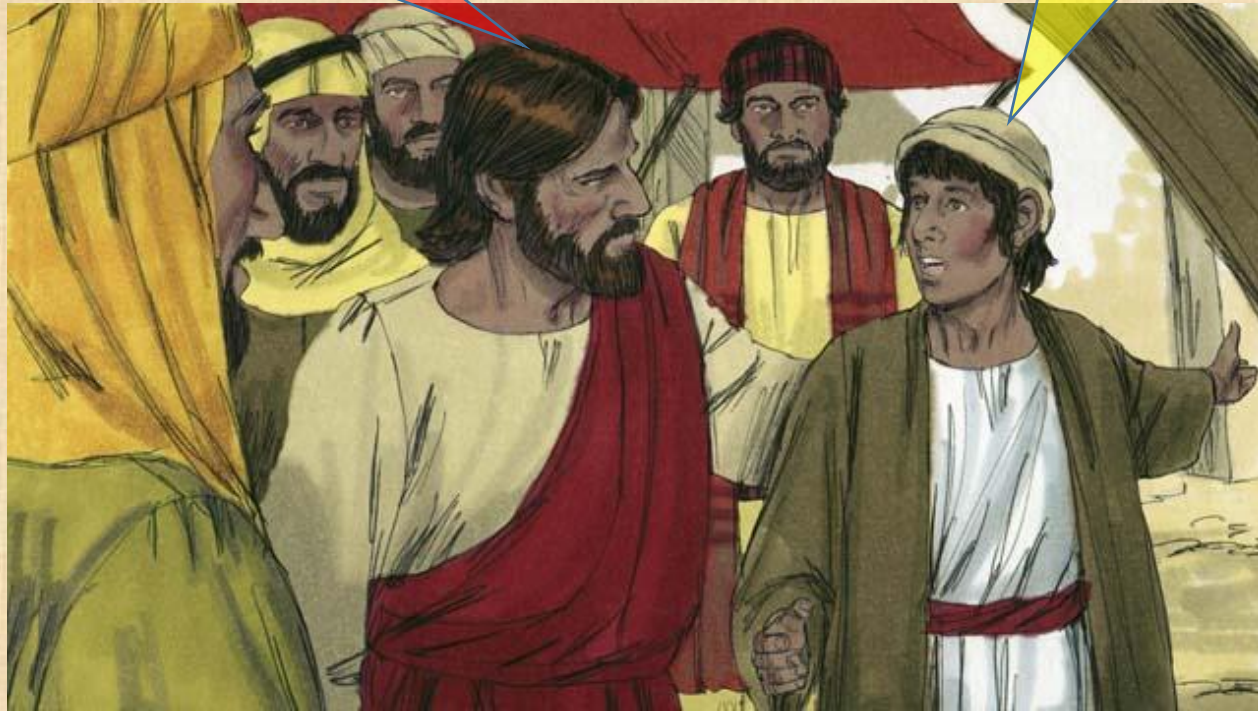
Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.



So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,

This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

Lord, he whom you love is ill.



Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?

Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.

Let us go to Judea again.



Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.

Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.



Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.

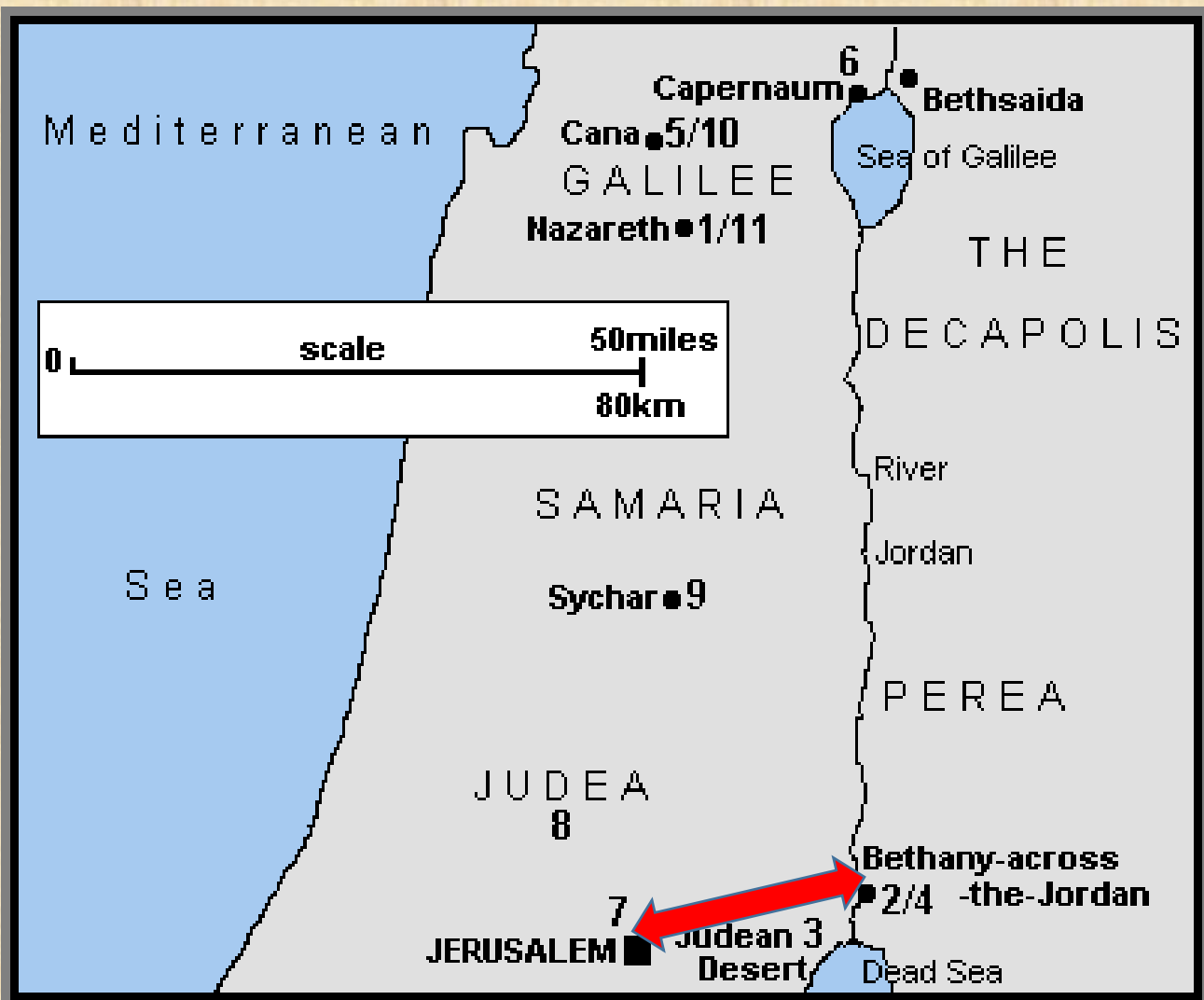
Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples:

Let us also go, that we may die with him.



When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.



Martha said to Jesus

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.



***Your brother
will rise again.***

Martha said to Jesus

***I know that he will
rise again on the
last day.***

***I am the
resurrection
and the life.***

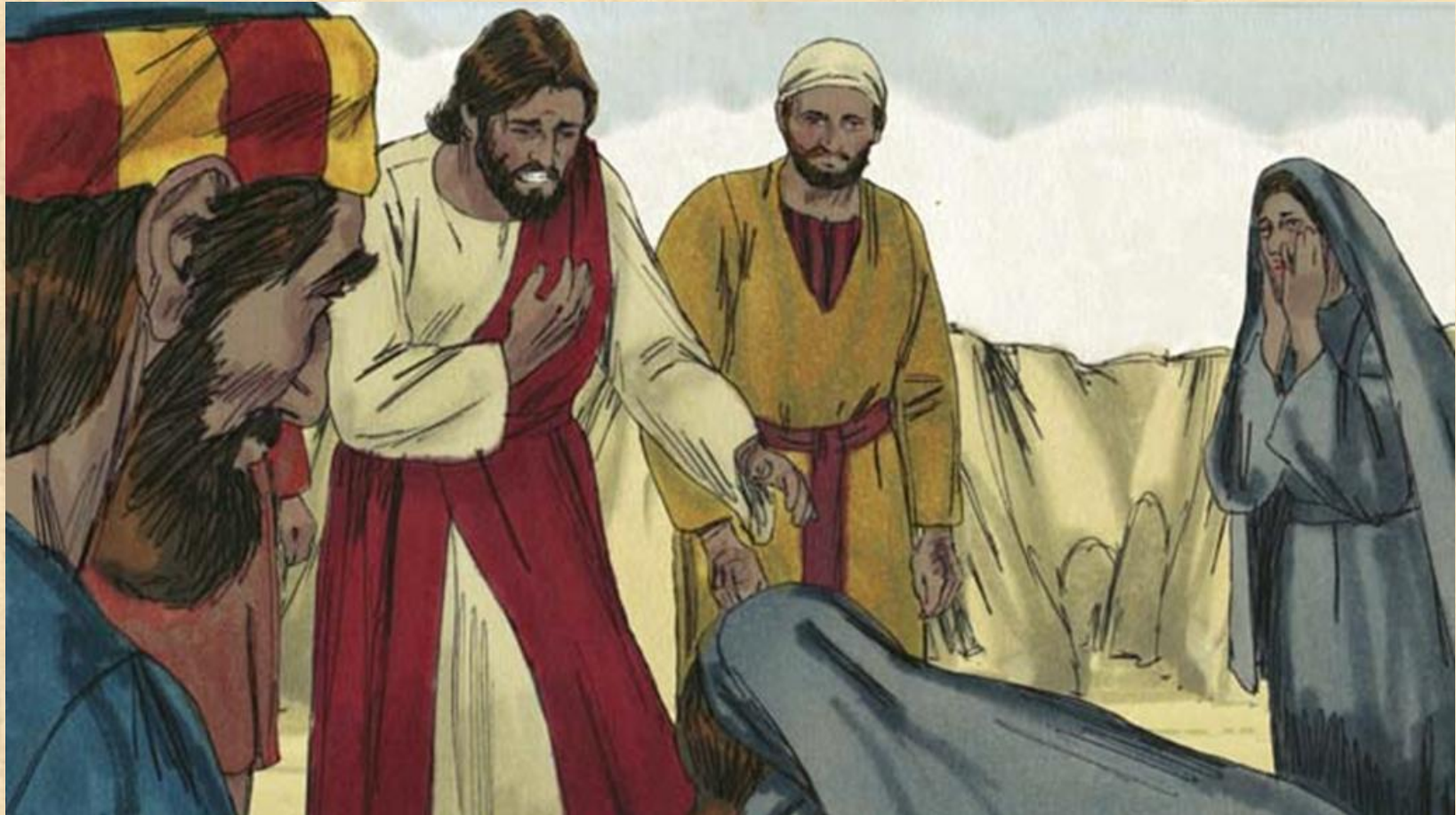


Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.



When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.



The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.



When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'



Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

***Take away
the stone.***



***Lord, already there
is a stench because
he has been dead
for four days.***

*Bethany. Lazarus' Tomb.
Lazarus Grab.
Tombeau de Lazare.*

Jesus said to her:

Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.

Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?



So they took away the stone.

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice:

Lazarus, come out!

Unbind him, and let him go.



The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.



Bible Search

Read **John 11:1-45** in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Consider



**What do you ask of God today?
What do you offer God today?**

Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to be open to God's will this week.

