When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, '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?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' 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. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, '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.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME
We don’t often think about Jesus having friends. But this story clearly tells of His friendship with not only Lazarus, but also his sisters, Mary and Martha. Friends have a powerful role to play in this Gospel story. It is the friends who, at the command of Jesus, roll away the stone to set Lazarus free. It is also the friends who, at Jesus’ command, unbind Lazarus to set him free.

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

- What does this Gospel say to you about the gift of friendship?
- Have you ever helped to set a friend free? How did you do this?
- Has a friend ever offered you the gift of freedom? How did your friend set you free?

Prayer of Pope Francis to Mary for Help and Protection During the Coronavirus Pandemic.

O Mary,
you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties
of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and
Blessed Virgin. AMEN.
THE CHURCH TEACHES
FRIENDSHIPS IN THE BIBLE

DAVID AND JONATHAN
Of all the friendships in the Old Testament, the friendship of David and Jonathan stands out. There is a wonderful description of their friendship in 1 Samuel 18: “As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”

• How would you treat a friend whom you love “as your own soul”?

NAOMI AND RUTH
The story of Naomi and Ruth, is one of friendship found in an unlikely place. Naomi was Ruth’s mother-in-law. When Ruth’s husband died, we would expect her to go back to her own family. But she stayed with her mother-in-law, who was in need. Her words are familiar: “Don’t urge me to leave you or turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.”

• Have you ever found a friend in an unexpected place?

PAUL AND TIMOTHY
Paul and Timothy met at work, while Paul was evangelizing in Timothy’s hometown. Timothy eventually tagged along with Paul on his travels. They became so close that Paul referred to Timothy as his “son in the faith.” Paul wrote a letter to Timothy while imprisoned in Rome a few months before his death. One of his last wishes was to see Timothy before he died.

• What are some of the things that you hope or wish for when you think of your friends?

JESUS AND MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS
These four were very close friends. In fact, John 11:5 says, “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” Jesus visited the home of these friends. The Gospel of John tells that Jesus cried when he learned of the death of Lazarus.

• Have you ever experienced the power of a group of friends?
Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus prays in Gethsemane

2. Jesus is betrayed
   Mark 14:1-11

3. Jesus is condemned
   Mark 15:1-15

4. Jesus is denied
   Matthew 26:69-75

5. Jesus is judged

6. Jesus is crowned with thorns
   Matthew 27:27-31

7. Jesus carries His cross
   John 19:14-16

8. Jesus is helped by Simon
   Mark 15:20-21

9. Jesus comforts the women

10. Jesus is crucified

11. Jesus entrusts His mother to John
    John 19:26-27

12. Jesus promises the thief Paradise
    Luke 23:43

13. Jesus dies
    Luke 23:46

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb
    Matthew 27:57-60

Alleluia! He is Risen!

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