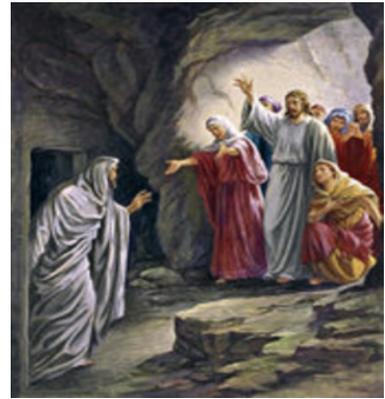


LIVING FAITH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
SOLIDARITY SUNDAY
MARCH 22

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY
John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-44



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.

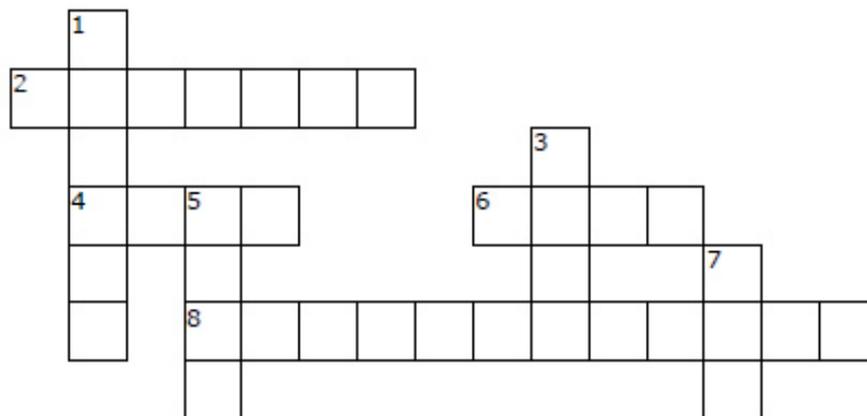
REFLECT AND DISCUSS

- 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?

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
John 11:25 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
4. A place where someone is buried
6. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
8. Rising from the dead or returning to life

DOWN

1. One of Lazarus' two sisters
3. To be alive or have life
5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
7. To stop living

TOMB	MARTHA	DIE	MARY
LIVE	RESURRECTION	LAZARUS	SICK



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?

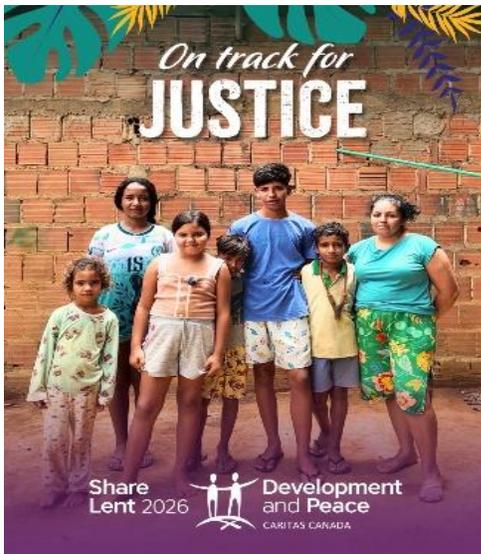
JESUS AND MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS

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?



Development and Peace Share Lent 2026



Week 5: March 22 – Solidarity Sunday This Lent, please give generously. This Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace Caritas Canada's On Track for Justice campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity. Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world. "Our longstanding partnership with Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is very important to us. It allows us to promote economic alternatives to mining and industrial agriculture, thereby strengthening local economies and agroecology. Your contributions help change the reality of communities here and make a difference for many other organizations around the world." Help create hope for and fulfil the dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or online. Thank you for your solidarity! www.devp.org/give

Prayer of the Faithful: For the Church, that she may continue to promote solidarity, peace, justice and the preferential option for the poor, let us pray to the Lord.



Journey Through Lent 2026 Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

The 2026 Journey through Lent video series, which includes reflections on the readings for Ash Wednesday and each Sunday in Lent including Palm Sunday, is available. It is a joint project between three CCCB offices (the Office national de liturgie, the National Liturgy Office, and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis).

This year's spiritual reflections are delivered by the Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Bishop of Peterborough (in English), and the Most Rev. Juan Carlos Londoño, Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec (in French).

The videos are available [here](#).

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