

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (11: 1-45) (CEV)

Glory to you, O Lord.

A man by the name of Lazarus was sick in the village of Bethany. He had two sisters, Mary and Martha. This was the same Mary who later poured perfume on the Lord's head and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters 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 more days. Then he said to his disciples, "Now we will go back to Judea."

"Teacher," they said, "the people there want to stone you to death! Why do you want to go back?"

Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours in each day? If you walk during the day, you will have light from the sun, and you won't stumble. But if you walk during the night, you will stumble, because you don't have any light." Then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, and I am going there to wake him up."

They replied, "Lord, if he is asleep, he will get better." Jesus really meant that Lazarus was dead, but they thought he was talking only about sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead! I am glad that I wasn't there, because now you will have a chance to put your faith in me. Let's go to him."

Thomas, whose nickname was "Twin," said to the other disciples, "Come on. Let's go, so we can die with him."

Jesus Brings Lazarus to Life

When Jesus got to Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many people had come from the city to comfort Martha and Mary because their brother had died.

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 faith in me will never really 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."

After Martha said this, she went and privately said to her sister Mary, "The Teacher is here, and he wants to see you." As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went out to Jesus. He was still outside the village

where Martha had gone to meet him. 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. Then as soon as she saw him, she knelt 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 still terribly upset. So he went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone rolled against the entrance. Then he told the people to roll the stone away. But Martha said, "Lord, you know that Lazarus has been dead four days, and 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 toward heaven and prayed, "Father, I thank you for answering my prayer. I know that you always answer my prayers. But I said this, so that 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 covered his face.

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

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Dear Friends - we have now set up a YouTube channel and will be streaming every Sunday 10am service live from Christ Church, Higher Bebington!

Just open YouTube and search for "Christ Church HB" or follow this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPD_Phsd0o2MYNudgbzFUzg

We will also be aiming to post various prayer services and activities over the coming weeks, so please subscribe to the channel. We are also updating our website and Facebook page on a daily basis. Please do have a look and let's try to stay connected. X

Prayer List: Maureen Ashworth, Cliff Barr, Sharon Beecham, Ann Bisbrown-Lee, George Bond, Krista Cater, Yvonne Cranny, Elsa Dowling, Mavis Duggan, Nora Duncan, John Evans, Mary Garland, Paula Green, Cara Elise Hartt, Simon Hayes, Pam Hollinshead, Lyndsey Howard, Anne Jones, Ted Jones, Richard Kelly, Paul Lewis, Jim Lloyd, Wendy Martin, Brenda McGrattan, Will McElroy (age 6), Heather Millington, Caroline Murphy, Helen Nealy, Ian Pass, Lorraine Petropoulou, Rita Quine, Diane Randles, Howard Rogers, Joanne Russell, John Russell, Diane Saunders, Ina Shorrock, Janet Shorrock, Barbara Smith, Ann Tait, Keira Taylor, Roisin Terris, Jackie Turner, Keelin Turner, Malcolm Wheatley, Ron White, Whittaker Family, Sophie, Jonah (age 8).

Funeral last week: Diana Mary Hirst.

Funeral this week:

Friday

11.00am

Evelyn Kidd

Plymyard Cemetery

Anniversaries: Brenda Blackburn, Paul Goulden, Sarah Sally Gouldson, Dorothy Bentley, Elsie Marion Ritchie, Donald Anderson, Rita Cann, Ada Hill, Donald Hamilton, Jean Eley, Robert McKee, Mary Taylor, Sheila Whitehead.

Dear Friends,

We live in times when communication has become a real challenge for all of us. Most of us will be struggling to be apart from loved ones and, although the modern world has provided many of us with the technology to stay in touch, an absence of physical contact cannot ever be compensated for. We are certainly missing the physical presence of our church family, but are exploring the various possibilities available to keep us connected in new ways...

Livestreaming our service for the first time on Mothering Sunday was an interesting experience(!) and we will continue to stream services via our YouTube channel each Sunday at 10am. We are also in the process of creating some "Noisy Church" services, some spiritual meditations, various prayer resources and, hopefully, some fun stuff! The Ministry Team are working hard to keep regular material posted on our website and facebook page and we have also set up a new page titled "Compassionate Bebington", which has been well received. Very soon, we will have an Instagram page running (primarily for our younger members!) and we have posted our pastoral resources on many other social media outlets.

This year, our Easter card has taken on a different form, with it being used mainly as a means of directing those in need to our teams of volunteer responders and listeners. It has gone out to over 4500 homes and businesses, providing vital assurance for those unable to leave their homes. We have also placed posters all around the parish providing numbers to call for those in need, have collected several boot loads of supplies for the Foodbank and our Pastoral Team are doing a great job of calling parishioners on a daily basis. Currently, we are working with Wirral Council and Community Connectors to ensure that the local volunteer effort is effectively coordinated and we are also trying to think of ways to make people smile – our bells are chiming every day at 7pm for 5 minutes as an encouragement for all to stop and give thanks for those who care for us. Being apart from each other is very difficult, but we trust in a God of hope, whose love connects us all beyond all the constraints of space and time. If you need anything from your church, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With love and every blessing,

Rev Mike and Rev Eunice

XX

Vicar: Rev. Mike Loach 0151 609 0943 mgloach@gmail.com

Associate Minister: Rev. Eunice Blackmore 0151 648 5343 euniceblackmore@talktalk.net

Parish Secretary: Victoria Gleave 0151 608 4429

parishoffice@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk

Office hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri: 9.00am to 12.30pm

Website: www.christchurchbeb.org.uk