

Today is the fifth Sunday in our Lenten journey. The Gospel recounts the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary were good friends with Jesus. He often stopped by their home whenever he was in the area.

But he did not go to them immediately when he heard that Lazarus was sick. Martha's greeting to Jesus, speaks to that point: if you had been here my brother would not have died... But even in her grief, Martha professes her trust in Jesus and her faith in the resurrection.

When Jesus goes to the tomb he weeps. He weeps in his grief for his friend Lazarus.... And then he calls Lazarus out of the darkness of his tomb and into the glorious light of life.

This story is a story of hope for everyone who mourns, to know that Jesus is with us in our grief, that we are not alone. As Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, so too we are called from the places in our lives where we are entombed and are not living our life to the fullest in the light of Christ's love for us.

Today may we come to know Jesus more deeply as our friend, and profess with more certainty our faith in the resurrection.