Sunday 26th March 2023

The Fifth Sunday of Lent
Passion Sunday

Today's Gospel reading: John 11. 3-7, 17. 20-27, 33-45

We hear the story of Jesus raising Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, and his own good friend, who had died.

🤔 Some things about this story to make us think:

There are things in life that make us sad, and make us cry. We are told that Jesus cried after Lazarus had died. Remember last week, we thought about how Jesus was fully God, but also fully human. Jesus had feelings, because he was human. He loved Lazarus and his death made Jesus cry. We then see the divine side of Jesus, as he raises Lazarus from death to life.

Martha and Mary were confused. They wondered why Jesus hadn't come right away to heal their brother. At the same time, though, they still trusted Jesus. They still believed in his promises, even if they didn't know what would happen.
Sometimes, for us, too, life feels confusing. We may not always understand how God is working in our lives. His plans do not always follow our timetable, but we can trust that he always has our best interests in mind, and that one day all things will be made new.

Sometimes life is tough and we pray that things could be different. Our job is to trust God. God has promised that all things will work out for good, if we love him and live in him. This doesn't mean things will be easy. It does mean that, one day, all will be made new and right again. Our lives may or may not improve on Earth, but, as God's children, we can be certain he will take care of us. We can be assured of his love and power. He has already proven that through Jesus!

🙏 In our prayer for this week, let's thank God for those promises, and ask for his help to remember them:

Loving God, we thank you for your promise that, as your children, we are part of your kingdom and will live forever in your light and love. Help us to remember, whenever we are having a hard time, that you are always with us and that all shall be well. Amen.

Jesus Raised Lazarus From the Dead
Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

___ ___ ___ ___
20 15 13 2

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
12 1 26 1 18 21 19

___ ___ ___ ___ ___
4   5   1   20 8

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
18 5 19 21 18 18 5 3 20 9 15 14

Phrase: To believers,

___ ___ ___ ___ ___   ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
10 5 19 21 19   7 9 22 5 19

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___   ___ ___ ___ ___ .
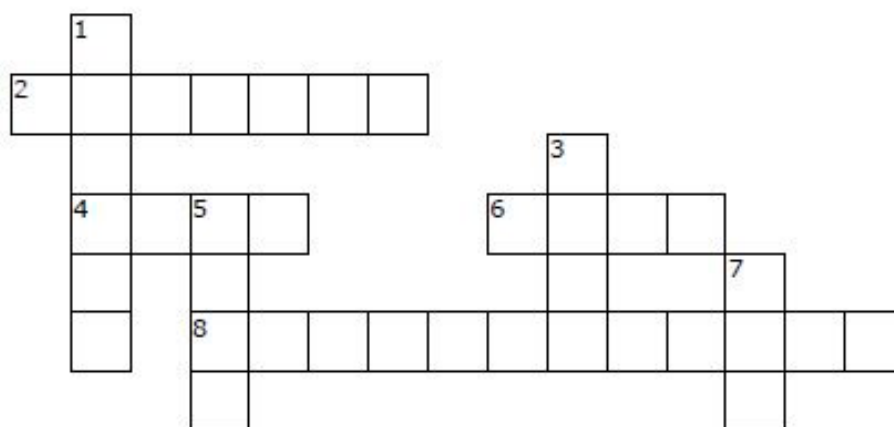5 20 5 18 14 1 12   12 9 6 5

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 |