

Each week during the Lenten season, one of the members of the Cathedral family will be offering a reflection on the Gospel. As Lent is a time of preparation, we hope that you will consider discussing this reflection with your son each week as well all prepare for the joy of Easter.

2026 CHS Lenten Reflections: 5th Sunday of Lent

We are nearing the summit of our journey toward the rising of Christ, and this week's gospel reminds us that God rewards us for having bold faith in him. This week's gospel is the story of Lazarus (John 11:1-45).

Our story begins with a message being delivered to Jesus that his most beloved friend Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary (Who would later anoint Jesus), was gravely ill. Upon hearing this news, Jesus tells his apostles that Lazarus' illness would not end in death.

Once Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had already been laid in the tomb for several days. Martha would go and meet with him and say that she truly believed that her brother would not have died had Jesus arrived sooner. Jesus goes on to say to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha would reply boldly that she does believe, so Jesus is asked to be brought to Lazarus' tomb.

When they arrive at the tomb, Jesus asks for them to open the tomb but Martha hesitates, stating that there will be a stench. However, Jesus reassures her at this moment saying, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" Finally, they open the tomb and Jesus calls out to Lazarus, and Lazarus comes out of the tomb alive!

This gospel gives us a reflection of ourselves at points in our own lives. We all at some point will be like Martha, we will answer yes but then hesitate when faced with that tough decision. Martha was afraid, not of the stench of the body, but of the disappointment of having to see her dead brother once again. Of the reminder of what could have been. But Jesus reassures her that there will not be disappointment if she truly has faith. In our case, we are reassured to trust in the providence of the lord. We must remember that while we will face setbacks and disappointments in our own journeys, we should remember that our lives are also filled with many blessings and gifts. That we may be afraid of the "stench" but that if we have faith we will "see the glory of God" at work in our own lives.

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