



# Lenten

# Reflections

The Divine Intervention

**April 2, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **John 11: 3-45**

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying,  
"Master, the one you love is ill."

When Jesus heard this he said,

"This illness is not to end in death,

but is for the glory of God,

that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

So when he heard that he was ill,

he remained for two days in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to his disciples,

"Let us go back to Judea."

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 to meet him;

but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus,

"Lord, if you had been here,

my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,  
God will give you."

Jesus said to her,

"Your brother will rise."

Martha said,

"I know he will rise,

in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told 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?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord.

I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,  
the one who is coming into the world."

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,

"Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of them said,

"Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man  
have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him,

"Lord, by now there will be a stench;

he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her,

"Did I not tell you that if you believe  
you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

"Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me;

but because of the crowd here I have said this,  
that they may believe that you sent me."  
And when he had said this,  
He cried out in a loud voice,  
"Lazarus, come out!"  
The dead man came out,  
tied hand and foot with burial bands,  
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.  
So Jesus said to them,  
"Untie him and let him go."  
Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary  
and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

One of the key themes through which John imparts his teaching about Jesus is called the "replacement" theme. John wants us to learn that Jesus came to replace the old rituals, teachings and customs of the Jewish people with His very presence. In today's text, Jesus tells the grieving sisters of Lazarus that their deceased brother will, indeed, rise again. They respond by telling Jesus, using their Jewish belief system as their source of information, that they do believe their dead brother would rise again and this would happen, according to their understanding, at the end of time when all Jews would be raised together. But Jesus corrects them. There will be no need for waiting. Why? Because Jesus IS the resurrection and the life. HE possesses the power to raise Lazarus from the dead now, and to their amazement, He does.

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## **Food for your Journey**

The Harvard psychiatrist Robert Coles, in his new book *The Spiritual Life of Children* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990), asked kids to draw pictures showing their feelings about God and to talk about them with him. Henrietta, a nine-year-old black girl from Boston, drew Jesus healing a blind man. Coles asked what she thought Jesus was saying and feeling when he did this healing. "Maybe Jesus sang while he healed," Henrietta replied. "When Jesus saw someone in trouble, His heart skipped a beat" (178-81).

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, I believe in You and I adore You. As I walk with You on my Lenten journey, remove my failures and shortcomings and replace them with genuine faith. Amen.