



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Lent V **March 22, 2026**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, the One who died for us. Amen.

We have now come to a moment in the Gospel of John; to the end of the section known as the Book of Signs. The first sign was the Wedding at Cana; Jesus turning water into wine and now the last sign; raising Lazarus from the dead. These signs have spanned the public ministry of Jesus in which the power of God the life-giving power is revealed. After this story, we enter into the section of John known as the Book of Glory; the event of Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

Here in the seventh sign we find Lazarus, Jesus friend dying. Martha and Mary, his sisters are at their wits end. No treatment, no medication brought him back to health. In desperation, they sent a messenger to give Jesus the news. I feel the messenger was sent with the news and with an email attachment; the expectation that Jesus would come quickly.

It is the phone call we never want to make; to tell our friends that our parent, our spouse, our child or someone we love so deeply has only a short time to live. We have done all that we could do but still that it wasn't enough. People will tell us, "You did wonderfully. You went beyond what anyone would have expected." But you know what, in our hearts we feel there

was something more we could have done; that one more pillow, that one more visit, that one more something.

Jesus and the disciples did not leave upon hearing the news. They delayed for two days. It was then they walked the few short miles from Jerusalem to Bethany. As they got closer to the house the tension between life and death intensified. Weeping and grief filled the air as family and friends gathered. Lazarus is dead and buried for four days.

The finality of death deepens the grief of Mary and Martha and their disappointment that Jesus, their friend for not being there when he was needed. They question him; possibly in a scornful manner. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

This is not unusual. We have sat in a living room waiting patiently and watched; watched out of the picture window for the car of our brother or sister to drive into the driveway. We are desponded; grieving for the lost of our loved one. The hour wait turns into two,

into three, into four. Where are they, we ask ourselves. And when they do arrive, we are in a state. We too, run to greet them not with welcome open arms but with a look of disappointment on our face; certainly in our hearts. Why because they did not come when we needed them. We believed in them.

Mary and Martha trusted Jesus as a teacher, healer, and miracle worker. They also believed him to be the Messiah who came from God. They unquestionably anticipated the resurrection of the dead on the last day and looked forward to be united with their brother Lazarus again.

Yet Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

This is the punch line to the story!

It is on the road where Martha meets Jesus, with her brother still in the tomb that Jesus has the nerve to give Mary the promise: "I am the resurrection and the life."

These words are given to Martha while Lazarus is still stone-cold dead in the tomb. Where is the promise of life given? It is given in the place where death is real.

It comes several days after the funeral.

We have had the death in the family. We have had the planning of the funeral; time spent with the pastor to choose hymns and the reading for the service. The funeral provides a sense of closure. Yet in the days to follow we realize we are still living through that reality of grief; still living through the reality of loss. There is still that tearing of separation which takes place within us. It is on the road of grief which Jesus shares with us those same words: "I am the resurrection and the life."

Resurrection: resurrection pre-supposes dying. It pre-supposes that death is real and that death is not final. It means that Lazarus is dead and allows Jesus and us to talk about it; to acknowledge what has happened. Plain and simple; Lazarus is dead. There is no masking the

reality of death. There is no attempt to sanitize it or to deny it. Jesus challenges it; not denies it but challenges by recognizing that death is real but it is not final.

From resurrection, Jesus speaks of life. “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.” The lungs will cease to breath and heart will cease to beat but that doesn’t mean that this life-giving relationship with God ends. It doesn’t mean we are abandoned by God. That the same God who created us is the God who remains with us even in death and brings us through death into life beyond. It is a life in relationship with God which has that prospect of a future to it and that prospect of a future is also a reality of the here and now because God is a reality of the here and now.

It is when death is real and the body is cold and we are in grief that is where the promise matters.

The life of faith is saying: I believe Jesus is the resurrection and life and I believe it now even when I have not seen it.

Where do you see the resurrection, the new life in your world? I would invite you to spend a few moments looking at the week ahead and think where you might claim God’s resurrection promise; where you might make a difference in someone’s life now.

My friends in Christ. We are resurrection people! We are to live as resurrection people. Opportunities to unbind and let go abound; may we hear the voice of Jesus to proclaim our life of faith in him; the resurrection and life to those around us. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....The Briscoe Family, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

We are doing it again! Lenten Food Drive – in support of St. Joseph’s Food Bank starts today and will continue until Easter. If you are able, please support this drive as the need is great. Watch as the table in the entrance grows with food as we support others. (Please check the expiry dates on the items.) Also, clean, empty egg cartons (one dozen size) are now being accepted as these can be re-used.

Please note.....cash donations should be given directly to them and not through offering envelopes. Thank you.

Camp Lutherlyn Camper Sponsorships – St. Timothy’s is sponsoring up to 5 children/youth for 1 Week each at Camp Lutherlyn this summer. You can obtain an Application Form from the church office and you can register your child online at lutherlyncamp.ca and then going to the Registration Page.

Lenten Services at St. Timothy’s

Our Lenten journey with our Lord to the cross has begun. This season of Lent prepares us for our Easter celebrations. It reminds us that to rise with Jesus we have to first die with Jesus.

Midweek Lenten Services will be held each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 pm. We will be joined by the congregation of The Parish of the Valley Anglican. Come, bring a friend and worship and then join in a time of coffee and fellowship in Jubilee Hall following the service.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Jubilee Hall

Sunday, March 22, 2026

following our morning worship

Reports Available Today

Purpose of the meeting:

- Approve Minutes from 2025 Congregational meetings
- Approve the 2026 Budget
- Approve the 2026 Investment Plan
- Transact other business as required

Thank you for your participation in the life of the congregation