

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jesus brings Lazarus back to life

BY JOE SARNICOLA

In the town of Bethany there lived a man named Lazarus. He had two sisters, Mary and Martha. They were all friends of Jesus.

Lazarus was very sick, so Mary and Martha sent a messenger to find Jesus, hoping he would come to heal her brother. The messenger found Jesus and his disciples in another town and said, "Master, Lazarus is sick. Please come and touch him, so that he will live."

Jesus put his hand on the messenger's shoulder and said, "I have a strong love for Lazarus and his sisters. Death will not triumph over Lazarus, but the power of God will, so that the son will receive glory."

The messenger immediately returned with the reply Jesus gave him, but Jesus did not prepare to leave what he was doing until two more days had passed. Then he said to his disciples, "It is time to return to Judea."

Peter spoke up. "Judea? The Jews in Judea just tried to kill you by stoning you, but now you want to go back there?"

"Yes," Jesus said. "Lazarus has fallen asleep, and it is time for him to wake up."

Next it was Thomas who spoke. "If he is only asleep, he is safe." "Lazarus is dead," Jesus said. "Let us go now, so that all of you will believe."

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus was not only dead, but he had been in a tomb for four days.

When Martha saw Jesus, she said to him, "My Lord, if only you had gotten here sooner, my brother would still be alive. But, even now, I know you can do all things."

"I am the resurrection, I am the life," Jesus declared. "Anyone who believes in me will live, even if he dies."

Then Jesus saw Mary, who was with other family members and friends of Lazarus, crying near the tomb. Jesus cried as well. One of the mourners said, "Jesus, you gave sight to a blind man you did not know, but you did not get here in time to save your friend."

"Remove the stone from the front of the tomb," Jesus ordered.

"Jesus," Mary warned, "there will be the stench of death."

"If you believe, you will see God's glory," Jesus answered.



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

The stone was moved. Jesus stood before the tomb and prayed, "Father, hear me, so that the people will believe."

Then Jesus held up his arms and shouted, "Lazarus, come out of the grave."

Lazarus walked out of the tomb still bound by the burial cloths, but alive and restored to good health.

### READ MORE ABOUT IT:

John 11

### Q&A

1. Why did Mary send for Jesus?
2. How did Jesus help Lazarus?

### Bible Accent

Healing was an important part of Jesus' ministry, and the bringing back to life of Lazarus was one of the more spectacular examples of his healing power.

Jesus was always full of compassion for the people he met, and many of them came to him for healing of themselves or a loved one. The Gospels tell about many of the healing miracles Jesus performed, including the curing of blood disorders, blindness, leprosy and crippling diseases. Jesus also encouraged his disciples to follow his example.

Today the church instructs us to "continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, (Jesus') work of healing and salvation."

### St. Joseph of Arimathea

St. Joseph of Arimathea is best known as the wealthy man who asked for the body of Christ in order to have it safely buried in the tomb he had prepared for himself. St. Joseph's request was granted, but one of the cornerstones of our faith is Jesus rose from the dead after three days in the tomb.

We know few other details about St. Joseph, but there are a number of legends about him. According to these legends, he became a missionary, and may have accompanied the apostle Philip. Along with several other missionaries, the legends continue, St. Joseph built a what is now Glastonbury Abbey on an island off the coast of England.

Legends also claim that St. Joseph owned the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper. This cup is called the Holy Grail. We honor St. Joseph of Arimathea on March 17.



### Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

**Why is it so important for us to have faith when we pray?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is March 18, 1999. The winner will be notified and receive the savings bond by mail.

Last month's winner was Stephen Popham, a sixth-grade student at Greece's Mother of Sorrows School. In response to the question **How might the world be different today if Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God?** he wrote:

If Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God, there would be no sin. We would not have to worry about crime, violence, hatred, war and racism. We would all be friends living in peace and harmony.

People in other countries would not want to take over the world, but would share it with everyone. The world would be like one big *Secret Garden* — as in the book — filled with sunshine, flowers, birds, butterflies and rainbows. This garden would be a paradise free from death and all suffering. Truly it would be heaven on earth.

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### Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the names of the correct foods to complete the Bible passages. Answers on page 10

- |          |           |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| a) figs  | b) grapes | c) barley | d) melons |
| e) honey | f) fish   | g) apples | h) olive  |

1. Refresh me with \_\_\_\_\_ (Song of Songs 2:5)
2. Two baskets of \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 24)
3. Harvested their \_\_\_\_\_ (Judges 9:27)
4. The \_\_\_\_\_, the leeks (Numbers 11:5)
5. Bring some of the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 21:10)
6. If you eat \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 24:13)
7. Two \_\_\_\_\_ trees (Revelation 11:4)
8. \_\_\_\_\_, oil and honey (Jeremiah 41:8)

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