

The Raising of Lazarus

A dramatized version from John chapter 11

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Jesus
Martha
Mary
Disciple / Bystander

The priest brings the book of the gospels from the altar and speaks the gospel dialogue ('The Lord be with you . . .'). He then hands the book to the two narrators who take it and place it on the lectern from which they will read their lines.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All And with your spirit.

Priest A reading from the holy gospel + according to St John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator 1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

Narrator 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair.

Narrator 1 Her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus:

Mary Lord, he whom you love is ill.

Narrator 1 But when Jesus heard it, he said:

Jesus 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. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.

Narrator 2 The disciples said to him:

Disciple Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.

Narrator 1 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Narrator 2 Then Jesus told them plainly:

Jesus Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.

Narrator 1 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

Narrator 2 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus:

Martha 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.

Narrator 1 Jesus said to her:

Jesus Your brother will rise again.

Narrator 2 Martha said to him:

Martha I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.

Narrator 1 Jesus said to her:

Jesus 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?

Narrator 1 She said to him,

Martha Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.

Narrator 2 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately:

Martha The Teacher is here and is calling for you.

Narrator 2 And when she heard it, Mary got up quickly and went to him, and she knelt at his feet and said to him:

Mary Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Narrator 1 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:

Jesus Where have you laid him?

Narrator 2 They said to him:

Bystander Lord, come and see.

Narrator 1 *(slowly)*
And Jesus wept.

Narrator 2 *(pause)*
Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said:

Jesus Take away the stone.

Narrator 1 Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him:

Martha Lord, already there is a smell because he has been dead four days.

Narrator 2 Jesus said to her:

Jesus Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?

Narrator 1 So they took away the stone.

Narrator 2 And Jesus looked upward and said:

Jesus Father, I thank you for having heard me.

Narrator 2 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice:

Jesus Lazarus, come out!

Narrator 1 *(pause for a moment)*

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth.

Narrator 2 Jesus said to them:

Jesus Unbind him, and let him go.

Narrator 1 Many of the Jews who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The narrators return the book of the gospels to the priest who lifts it up before the people and says:

Priest The gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.