

Encountering THE SEASON

LENT *for the* FAMILY

THE
FIFTH WEEK
of LENT

This week, we hear about the death of Lazarus, and we see Martha and Mary's pain at the loss of their brother. When Jesus comes, Martha greets him by saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (John 11:21). Martha knew that Jesus could have saved Lazarus from death, and although it may sound like she's upset with Jesus, she says it with full trust in the Lord, knowing that he has the ability to save. The friendship that Jesus has with both Martha and Mary is a beautiful example of his humanity.

Friendship—and finding people to accompany you on your journey through Lent—is incredibly important. We are called to friendship and community because the Lord knows that it is sometimes harder for us to do something when we're alone. God will often put people in our lives to help us through a difficult time. Christ asks us to trust him, and like Martha, we need to believe that Christ has the ability to save. Through this belief, we can trust in the Lord's will and way with our lives.



Challenge of the Week

Pray with a friend. Instead of going about your day alone, seek out a friend who might need comfort or a little encouragement. Offer to pray with or for them.



Prayer of the Week

Lord, we are called into unity with you. You revealed to us the importance of friendship through Mary and Martha. Help us to be more like Martha and trust in Christ's ability to save. Allow us to continue this journey through Lent with a heart full of trust in your will and way, Lord. Help us define ourselves by you. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Bible Verse

"Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:23–26).



Song of the Week

"Change Our Hearts" (Rory Cooney)