

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, August 10th, 2025
Rev. Gerry Gallant

The Resurrection and The Life
Proper 14
John 11:17-46

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

We gather, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

We listen, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom,
sometimes startling and unexpected,
sometimes still and quiet,
but always dwelling among us.

We watch and wait for the Word of God.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Loving God,
we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.
You are greater than we can understand;
open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths
you have shown to us in Jesus.
You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;
help us to give ourselves to you in worship
so that we learn what you want us to be.
You are wiser than we can know;
still our minds as we worship you
so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.
Loving God, in Jesus
you chose to come to the world in humility.
You chose the path the world saw as foolish.
You used what the world considered weak.
We worship and adore you. **Amen.**

Children's Hymn: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Lord, I lift Your name on high.
 Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
 I'm so glad You're in my life;
 I'm so glad You came to save us.

Chorus

You came from Heaven to earth
 To show the way.
 From the Earth to the cross,
 My debt to pay.
 From the cross to the grave,
 From the grave to the sky;
 Lord, I lift Your name on high.

Lord, I lift Your name on high.
 Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
 I'm so glad You're in my life;
 I'm so glad You came to save us. (Chorus)

Call to Confession**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God,
 in your gracious presence
 we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
 Although Christ is among us as our peace,
 we are a people divided against ourselves
 as we cling to the values of a broken world.
 The profit and pleasures we pursue
 lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
 The fears and jealousies that we harbor
 set neighbor against neighbor
 and nation against nation.
 We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
 of intellect and reason,
 and turn them into bonds of oppression.
 Lord, have mercy upon us;
 heal and forgive us.
 Set us free to serve you in the world
 as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!
 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
 whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Know that in Jesus,
God embraces you, forgives you,
and strengthens you to live a renewed life.
Thanks be to God.

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever, Amen.**

Hymn #399: "Spirit of Gentleness"

Chorus

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
""Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings."" (Chorus)

You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow
all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise. (Chorus)

Responsive Reading

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³ Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,

**⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹ The Lord watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

John 11:17-46

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place

where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

Sermon

Today, we will see the seventh sign described in the book of John, that seventh miracle that John uses to point to the absolute and unquestionable deity of Jesus Christ.

Remember that last week we learned that Jesus was near the Jordan River where John the Baptist had his ministry, when he received word from Martha and Mary that the one he loved, Lazarus was sick.

Jesus received the message and said,

John 11:4

⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

And then he waited two more days after which he told his disciples it was time to go to Lazarus. His disciples warned him of the dangers he would face returning to Jerusalem, reminding him that the religious leaders were still seeking to stone him to death for blasphemy.

To which Jesus responded that he was doing the work of the Father while he walked in the light of the day. A reminder for all of us of what it means to do God's work while we are here on this planet.

When we are walking in the will of God, doing the work of God, for the Glory of God we can be confident that God is with us in all we do.

Finally, Jesus quite plainly tells the disciples:

John 11:14-16

¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

And that is where we start today, after that joyful proclamation of a shared death by Thomas.

John 11: 17-27

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

Lazarus had been dead for four days before Jesus arrived, and by the time that Him and the disciple had appeared many other mourners had also arrived.

It may seem insignificant to us, but the delay of two days that Jesus had taken while he was near the Jordan was on purpose and would have had a great significance to the Jews of that day, Lazarus being dead for four days was important, and I will touch on that more a little later.

The Jews believed that someone’s spirit stayed close to the body for seven days. They therefore would have seven days of mourning after the death of a loved one. It was seven days of crying, weeping and wailing. In fact, there were people who would be hired by the families to weep and wail and cry out during the period of mourning.

The belief was that the more the people wept and cried and wiled the more that the person was loved. So, hiring people to weep and cry and wail just made sense to the people of the time.

During those seven days, all those who had come to mourn the passing of Lazarus would move from the house to the tomb, as they showed their love for Lazarus in their mourning.

So, Jesus arrives in the town of Bethany and is met by Martha, while Mary stayed at the house with the mourner who were gathered there.

Martha meets Jesus as he comes into town and says to him, ‘**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.**’

Unfortunately, we have her words but not the tone of her voice, and unfortunately most time we read this as Martha kind of scolding Jesus, ‘Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’

However, it could also have been something said with a broken heart that was filled with faith, ‘Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’

I believe that it is far more likely that Martha was uttering this statement in faith than in anger. That she knew that if Jesus had been present, he could have healed her brother and prevented his death. She seems to not understand that Jesus could have healed Lazarus from anywhere with His word.

We know that Jesus healed people without ever seeing them or touching them, so the minute that he discovered that Lazarus was sick he could have healed him. Space and time are not an issue for God. He can do what he wants at any time without any of our worldly constraints.

Yet Martha struggles to understand this in her grief.

This is still common in the world today. When things are tough, when we are in times of trial or tribulation. When we are grieving, we often question God where he is? Why He did not save someone or heal someone we loved? Why He let happen what happened?

Martha is just expressing her grief to God, and we should be doing the same.

Notice how Jesus responds, He does not rebuke her or correct her. Instead, he lets her continue.

Martha knew that Jesus had raised people from the dead, and perhaps she had some hope that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead.

That word that we see translated as ‘ask’ in verse twenty-two should be translated to something more like ‘plead or beg’ of God. Martha believed that whatever Jesus asked of God would happen.

And Jesus tells her that Lazarus will indeed rise again. He makes her a promise to do something that only God can do.

Martha understands this to mean that Lazarus will be raised with all of God’s people in the resurrection of the faithful at the end of times.

This whole interaction with Martha is interesting, it reflects what so many of us experience in the world today. Grief, with questioning, and trust and a focus on the end of times.

However, we do need to recognize that Martha knew that the faithful will all come back to eternal life when they are raised from the dead on the Day of Judgement. She knew that every human who has ever lived will be raised from the dead on that day, and that they will move into eternal life either in the presence of the Lord in his kingdom or in the lake of fire, permanently removed from God’s presence and God’s blessings.

It is also here in this verse we see Jesus make his fifth ‘I am’ statement, **‘I am the resurrection and the life.’**

Life comes from God and God alone. **‘I am the resurrection and the life.’** This means that for you to have a resurrected life you need to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, by being one of His sheep.

Once again Jesus is making the promise of eternal life for his flock. This everlasting life starts the moment that you are baptized by the Holy Spirit. That very moment your everlasting life starts and the Holy Spirit begins to work in you. This is why Christians can find peace and joy in all circumstances, we know we are cared for and looked after by the Good Shepherd.

Jesus tells Martha all of this and then asks her if she believes. The same way he asks of you, do you believe?

To which Martha responds, **‘Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’**

Could you respond in the same manner as Martha, that you believe Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God who has come into the world.

Martha then goes to get her sister Mary.

John 11: 28-37

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

Martha goes to Mary in secret, ‘Jesus is here.’ She does this quietly which is also significant, because if she had spoken it out loud there is a good chance that many of the Jews that followed her out would not have followed because of their hatred of Jesus, and they would have missed witnessing Lazarus walking out from the tomb.

Instead, they see Martha come to Mary and the two of them leave suddenly, they assume that they are on their way to the tomb to weep over the grave of Lazarus, so they follow them.

Once again, we hear the words, **‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’**

She parrots the words of her sister as she fell down at the feet of the Lord weeping. That word 'weeping' here in verse thirty-three is 'sobbing', a loud weeping and wailing, a crying out loud as an expression of grief and loss.

And Jesus witnessing this grief and sorrow on display from the one he loved, **'was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.'**

And when they took Jesus to the place where the tomb of Lazarus was located, we get the shortest verse in the Bible.

John 11:35

³⁵ Jesus wept.

This verse has so much depth, and no person can really understand this verse fully because it is beyond our comprehension.

Jesus was deeply moved in the spirit, in some translations it says he groaned in the spirit, which means he sighed, or groaned from the very depths of his spirit in compassion and grief. He was troubled and angered by the loss of his loved one. He was troubled and angered because he was witnessing what sin had brought into the world.

He knew that this was not what God had planned for his people, and he felt an agony in his understanding that we cannot quite fully comprehend. We see this echoed in the garden of Gethsemane, where he weeps and sweats blood, because of his knowledge of the sacrifice that he is about to make.

Jesus groaned in spirit because this world was so far away from God's intent. We get some sense of this when we look at the world around us and feel that spiritual agony and anger at how sin rules over the lives of so many and we too groan in the spirit and are troubled.

Jesus was troubled and wept because of us, and because of what we experience in this fallen world, he knew that Lazarus would walk out from that tomb in just a few minutes, yet he was caught up in the moment and empathized with those he loved and his knowledge and understanding of what sin had brought into this world.

So, Jesus wept. That word wept in verse thirty-five is different in Greek than the word we saw in verse thirty-three, it has a different meaning than that word. Jesus wept, is not a loud weeping and wailing, it is that true emotional response that people get where their eyes fill with tears and the slowly begin to roll down their cheeks.

Jesus wept, he empathized with the people he loved, he felt their emotional loss, he understood the depths of what sin has caused in this world and in the moment, he understood their sorrow and pain and took part in it. He knows and He cares.

Jesus knows and He cares, and we need to know and hold onto this in our own times of sorrow and grief, in our own trials and tribulations. Jesus knows where we are, and He cares.

When the Jews who are gathered there see Jesus' weep, they question why this man who could heal the blind could not save the one he loved so much.

John 11:38-44

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

They come to the tomb and Jesus instructs them, commands them to take away the stone. Jesus is God he could have command the stone to roll away and it would have, but he invites those people gathered there to take part, the same way in which he has done with all his other miracles.

To which Martha responds, '**Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days**' or my personal favorite is the King James version, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days.'

Martha had just told Jesus that whatever you ask of God he will give you and yet here she is doubting that very statement.

Which brings us back to that idea of why Jesus waited until the fourth day. The Jews believed that for the first three days after someone died, they could come back to life, because their body was still in relatively a health state. However, by the fourth day, the rot had set in, and the flesh began to fall apart.

Jesus waited for two days, so that Lazarus would be dead for four days so that no one could question what he was about to do when he called Lazarus from that tomb.

Lazarus was dead dead.

Jesus then gives thanks to God, he glorifies God, out loud so that those around him would know that God the Father was involved. He does not ask the Father to do anything, instead he just gives him thanks.

He prays and then calls out in a command, '**Lazarus, come out.**'

And Lazarus comes out, bound in the linens in which he had been buried, and Jesus gives his third command, to unbind Lazarus from the linens.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead with his words. If Jesus had just said 'come out' maybe the rest of the dead in that graveyard would have all come forth, so it is important that he called out just Lazarus.

Lazarus, brought back from the dead, causes quite a stir among the people who were gathered there.

They saw an undeniable raising of the dead, Lazarus had been dead four days, there was no doubt of that and now he was walking among the living,

John 11:45-46

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

And once again we have the split. The division between those who believe and those who do not.

The truth is that no matter how much proof there is that Jesus is the Son of God, there will always be those who do not believe.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he was decayed, and yet Jesus brought him back into life.

This is the same thing that Jesus does with us in our lives, the raising of Lazarus creates for us an image of what it means to be reborn in our relationship with God.

We are all dead in sin, every human being who walks on this earth is dead in sin. Some of us, however, are definitely more decayed by that sin, we walked further and further away from the Lord.

Yet when we come to Jesus Christ and humbly and truthfully confess our sins and repent from our ways, he brings us to new life. We are baptized by the Holy Spirit and spiritually raised from the dead, and in the same way that Lazarus tied up in those grave linins, we are tied up in our sin, and Jesus loses us, releases us and frees us from those sins as the Holy Spirit does its work in us.

Jesus saves us, and yet we still struggle with sin, we will always struggle with sin in our lives, but Jesus loses us and frees us from that sin. As Christians, as His sheep, we should seek to be free of the sins of this world and live as the Salt and Light of his Word, to share with others about how we were dead in sin and he raised us to life freeing us from those sins which bound us and giving hope to others that he can do the same for them.

Let us Pray,

Your Compassion is Boundless

Almighty, merciful God, heavenly Father,
your compassion is boundless.

You are patient, gracious,
and are rich in love and faithfulness.

You forgive rebellion, trespasses and sin.

We have sinned and have become evil,
and have often angered you.

Against you alone have we sinned
and done evil in your sight.

But Lord,
do not think about our past misdeeds.
Let your great mercy be on us,
for we are miserable.
Help us, God of our Salvation.
Redeem us and forgive our sins
for the glory of your most holy name,
and for the sake of your beloved Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Source: Pomeranian Agenda, in Gebetbuch, enthaltend ..., #591. Translated for A Collection of Prayers.

Hymn #670: “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer

Closing Hymn #755: “Go Ye, Go Ye Into The World”

Go ye, go ye into the world,
And make disciples of all the nations.
Go ye, go ye into the world,
And I will be with you there!

Go ye, go ye into the world,
And take the gospel to all the people.
Go ye, go ye into the world,
And I will be with you there!

Go ye, go ye into the world,
 And tell the story to all believers.
 Go ye, go ye into the world,
 And I will be with you there!

Pastoral Prayer

Mighty God,
 we give you thanks for life and breath to follow you all our days.
 Thank you for the gift of faith that gives us courage when things are difficult,
 and for the encouragement we find in the faith of others we meet.
 Inspire us to remain loyal to you as our true Source of life and hope.

We thank you for guiding us when we cannot see the path ahead.
 Thank you for showing us a way through our challenges
 when we cannot see a solution on our own
 Renew our trust in you in these days when so much is confusing and uncertain.

We pray for those who wonder if they can rely on you,
 and for those who are afraid for the future.
 Give them courage to listen for your call and follow your leading.

We pray for those who doubt.
 Give them courage to explore those doubts and questions
 and so, discover renewed trust in your promises.

We pray for those who are impatient.
 Bless them in times of waiting for what comes next
 and fill them with kindness.

We pray for those who have chosen a path that has led to trouble.
 Turn their hearts towards you
 and lead them in ways of goodness, justice, and generosity.

We pray for your Church in these days when so much is changing.
 Give us wisdom to discern ways to reach out to our community,
 and faithfulness to keep following Jesus into the future you hold in your hands.

All knowing Father, we depend on you.
 Be gracious and bless us, so that our lives may be a blessing to others.
 Together we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
 Our lord and savior,
 Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 As the one true God,
 Now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Benediction

The love of God the Father, the faithful creator,
the peace of Christ, the wounded healer,
the joy of the challenging Spirit,
the hope of the Three in One
surround and encourage you
today, tonight, and forever. **Amen.**