

## Family Worship on Sundays

### THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*(Gather at the family table)*

*The one presiding may say:* The first followers of Jesus gathered for a meal on Sunday or the night before, just like we are gathered here today (tonight). At their meals they remembered Jesus' life and service to others, his death and new life. So today (tonight) we do the same, remembering that Jesus is here with us, for he said, "Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

*(If evening, candles may be lit)*

*Presider takes a loaf of bread and breaks it  
As the food is served, the presider says*

*Presider:* We give you thanks God our Father (Source) for the life and knowledge you have given us in Jesus your Servant.

**ALL:** **Glory to you now and forever.**

*Presider:* As the grains of this broken bread were once scattered upon the hills and became one loaf, so gather your people together from all over the world into your Kingdom (Reign) of justice, peace and love with Jesus your Servant.

**ALL:** **Glory to you now and forever.**

*Presider pours wine into one or several cups.*

*Presider:* We thank you, Holy God, for the holy vine of David your servant, which you made known to us through Jesus your servant.

**ALL:** **Glory to you now and forever.**

*The broken bread and the cup(s) are shared.*

*During the meal, a short passage from the gospel appointed may be read, or retold, and discussed.*

## **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.

### **PRAYER AT THE END**

*Presider:* We thank you, holy God, for your holy name which you placed in our hearts, and for the knowledge and trust that you made known to us through Jesus your servant.

**ALL:** **Glory to you now and forever.**

*Presider:* You, Holy God, made everything for your name's sake. You gave food and drink to all people to enjoy, that we may give you thanks. And to us you freely give spiritual food and drink and life eternal through Jesus, your servant.

*Presider:* **Glory to you now and forever.**

*Presider:* Remember your church. Free and protect us from evil and make us perfect in your love; make us holy and gather us in your Kingdom (Realm) prepared for us. For Yours is the power and the glory forever.

**ALL:** Amen

*Presider:* May your healing come, and this crisis pass away! Jesus is coming!

**ALL:** Amen.

*A song or psalm with refrain may be sung as the table is cleared and dishes washed.*

## THE HYMN

*From all that dwell below the skies*

*Tune: Old 100<sup>th</sup> (Commonly known as the Doxology)*

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let  
 2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and  
 \*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's  
 truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!  
 shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.