

Christ raises Lazarus from the dead



# **Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church**

**24 BURKE ROAD**

**FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

**Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast**

**April 6, 2014**

**Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;  
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,  
Cantors**

**Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158**

## **We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure**

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

*It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.*

## **GLAD TIDINGS**

**+++ This Saturday is Lazarus Saturday and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9: 00 AM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise.**

**+++ Friday evening at 7: 30 PM, the Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts is celebrated.**

**+++ Saturday at 9:00 AM we will have the third All Soul Saturday. Please come and join us in prayer and praise. Confessions before and after services.**

+++ Every Monday, we have prayerful devotions before the Myrrh bearing icon at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to be present in praise. The Birthgiver invites us to manifest our faith in response to her first shown love, to unite our prayers with hers for the salvation of our souls. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

+++ The Special Offering for flowers, palms, pussy willows for the coming feast days beginning with Palm Sunday is taken today. We pray all are generous so that our church is beautified to manifest the beauty of our souls for the celebration of the triumphant Resurrection.

+++ Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Anna, Barbara, Betty, James, Yevlogia, Maria and Father George.

+++ The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$585.00; Candles, \$15.00; Great Fast Self-Denial, \$104.00; Holyday, \$80.00; Kitchen, \$139.00; Food Coupons, \$500.00; Camp Raffle, \$40.00; Memorial, \$50.00, for a total of \$1513.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 44 adults and 13 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleanor Korba, Robert Gorbich, Marilyn Korba and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of **\$1715.00** from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5750 on this project to date!

+++ The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.

+++ We invite all pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.



# **WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE**

*In you, O Mother Mary, the faithful divine likeness shone forth, for by taking up the cross, you followed Christ. You gave us an example to be not concerned with the flesh, but to be diligent over the eternal things of the spirit. Therefore, O Venerable Mary, you now rejoice with the angels* Troparion, St. Mary of Egypt.

*Once filled with all kinds of vices, today, through repentance, she appears as the bride of Christ. Leading an angelic life, she crushes the devil with the help of the cross. Therefore, O venerable Mary, you now rejoice with the angels* Kontakion, St. Mary of Egypt.

*O Christ God, You confirmed the resurrection of all before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead; therefore we, as the children of Israel, carry the symbols of victory and cry out to You, the Conqueror of death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord"* Troparion, Lazarus Saturday.

*Christ, the Joy of all, the Truth, the Light, the Life, and the Resurrection of the world appeared to those on earth. Because of His goodness, He became also the image of Resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all* Kontakion, Lazarus Saturday.

*The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; Whom shall I fear?* Prokimenon, Lazarus Saturday.

*Let us gloriously honor the pure Mother of God. She bore the divine Fire and was not consumed. With ceaseless praise, let us extol her* Hymn instead of "It is truly proper...", Lazarus Saturday.

*Out of the mouths of babes and infants, You have fashioned praise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!* Communion hymn, Lazarus Saturday.

*All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!* Hymn Instead of "Holy God", Lazarus Saturday.



## **Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast**

*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the Scribes; and they will condemn him to death, and will deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit on him, and scourge him and put him to death...*

**Mark 10: 33, 34.**

In days past faithful believers called this day Passion Sunday because our Lord announces far before hand the impending future.

And, of course, we see where the mind and thinking of some of the disciples was. They are concerned about the present, physical, quickly passing needs, worldly needs. They apparently forgot the reminder of our Lord, *If the world hates you, be aware it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you* John 15: 18, 19. The Lord is enunciating eternal realities, but men around him want to enter into discussion about earthly security and recognition.

No one is free from the risk of persecution or the wiles of the world...but how serious is it for Christians who are unwilling to suffer for their own sins when He who had no sin suffers for us! The Son of God suffered in order to make us children of God, but people won't suffer to continue being children of God! If we suffer from the world's hatred, Christ first endured the world's hatred and enmity! If we suffer rebukes in this world, if exile and torture await us, the Maker and Lord of the world experienced even harder things than these. We must also remember his poignant reminder, *The servant is no greater than his master. If they persecute me, they will also persecute you* John 15: 20.

Whatever our Lord God taught, He did so that disciple who should have been eager to learn, have no excuse not to do what they have been taught. But make no mistake, no fancy or lofty words must ever disguise the fact that choosing suffering is not normal. Human beings avoid suffering and prefer not to think about death. Given a choice, we prefer better weather. We are eager to take an aspirin. We appreciate a cushion. We quickly come in out of the cold. We do not go down dark alleys. We do not drive cars

without brakes. Anyone who chooses pain is odd, if not a masochist, in the eyes of most of us.

The gospel message, however, is unambiguously clear about the cost of discipleship and also that the call of Jesus to discipleship is the echo of the call of the Eternal Father to him. Called to be the Messiah, Jesus knew He must suffer and be what appeared a contradiction in terms: a rejected Messiah. But He lays this necessity on the disciples too, and on us as well. Just as Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the one anointed to suffer for our sin, only insofar as He suffers and is rejected, so the disciples of Jesus are obedient to the call of the Lord insofar as they are prepared pay the cost.

What the disciples fail to consider are the words offered them on another occasion, *But I will send you the Comforter, the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will tell you all about me* John 15: 26. When our Lord related to his followers the truthful reality of the Holy Spirit, He conveyed to them the Greek word literally means *one who comes alongside*. So this title pictures one person, coming close to another, alongside, to guide as on a pathway; to advise as a lawyer in a court of law; to counsel as a therapist or spiritual father or a trusted friend; to speak words of concern as in a hospital room, or to comfort us as we mourn over our sins or the loss of a loved one at graveside.

Clearly our heavenly Father sends the Spirit upon all believers. And He counsels by telling the truth about Jesus our Lord and Saviour, assuring believers of Christ's true identity, forgiveness of sin, love and salvation.

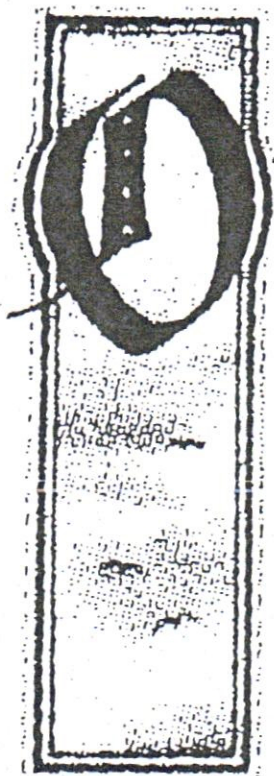
The disciples are confused today and do not know which way to turn. Truth and assurance faces them, but they do not recognize him. So you feel lost, wondering which way to turn? You are not alone. The Holy Spirit stands beside you and will guide you on God's way. Do you feel accosted and accused? You are not alone. The Spirit of God comes to your defense. Do you feel confused, frustrated, anxious and fearful? You are not alone. The Counselor is with you to give you hope and to teach you how to live and respond to the challenges of life. Do you feel devastated by loss and overcome with grief? You are not alone. The Comforter from heaven is close, wrapping his arms around you and whispering words of love and encouragement.



*These things I speak to you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world* John 16: 33. In the midst of trouble, we must not pursue foolish escapes or vain things or yield to fear in the midst of perceived trouble. We are, no doubt, flattered by deception and weighed down by troubles, but because ...*the earth is full of the mercy of the Lord*, Psalms 33: 5, Christ's victory is ours because he fulfills what He taught. So then whether we fight against the ambition of the world, the lusts of the flesh, or against the darts of heresy and wrong belief and understanding, we must always arm ourselves with the cross of the Lord. We should remember the instruction of the Apostle Paul, "*Your attitude must be that of Christ: Though he was in the form of God, he did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being borne in the likeness of man. He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that he humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross. Because of this, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend in the heavens and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father, Jesus Christ is Lord!*" Philippians 2: 6 - 11.

But after speaking of tribulation in the world, the Lord continues, *I have overcome the world* John 16: 33. St. Dionysius of Alexandria goes on to say, "He taught the disciples to pray that they would not fall into temptation and be distracted by the cares of the world. To show that this implied not only they would not be tempted but that they would be saved from evil, so He added, ...*deliver us from evil*" Luke 11: 4. What difference is here between being tempted and falling or entering into temptation? Well, if a person is overcome by evil and he will be overcome unless he struggles against it, and unless God protects him with his shield of grace, that person has entered into temptation and has been taken captive to it. But if one resists and endures, one is tempted but has not entered into temptation or fallen under it. Therefore, the wicked one draws us into evil temptations when he tempts us. But God tests us as one untempted by evil. For God, it is said, cannot be tempted by evil. The devil therefore, drive us on by violence, drawing us to destruction. Our heavenly Father leads us by the hand, training us for our salvation as Christ does the two disciples" in today's gospel narrative.

Let him have our hand as well!



loving God,  
grant us  
MINDS  
to know you,  
HEARTS  
to love you,  
HANDS to do your  
work & VOICES  
to sing your praise.





# The Seven Last Words Of Christ On The Cross

## The First Word.

*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do* Luke 23: 24.

The last temptation of Christ prompts His first word from the Cross. Satan tempted Him to abandon His mission at the beginning of His public ministry. Now at the fulfillment of His ministry new tempters urge Jesus to look out for His own welfare. They say, "Save yourself!" They misuse His titles to batter His self-esteem. They want Him to forget about saving souls. The priests sarcastically refer to Him being the Messiah. Soldiers mock His alleged kingship. The unbelieving crowd scorns His presumed divinity. A real Messiah could take care of Himself.

Christ's first word reveals what He really considered to be His last temptation. Faced with the cynics in front of Him, Jesus would experience the human impulse to withhold forgiveness. It is not easy to forgive

people who have written us off. Jesus must resist spontaneous resentment caused by His accusers. Neither His divinity nor His masterful humanity immunized Him from temptations. He felt the tug of temptation more acutely than any of us. Made more vulnerable by the beatings and the trauma of the nailing to the Cross, Jesus would feel a sudden rage and an urge not to forgive His tormentors.

He came to forgive the sins of all the people. He must gather His whole inner force to forgive these particular people in the real situation at the Cross, because, after all, was it not a microcosm of their whole history? That he did so was His final victory over His last temptation.

Forgiveness flowed from Jesus' Cross on Great and Holy Friday as it has ever since. This forgiveness included compassion even for those who affronted Him.

- *Forgiving Jesus, heal my heart of all vengeance. Enable me to forgive those who have hurt me and written me off. By Your grace, make my forgiving power greater than any injury, real or perceived, that may ever come my way.*

## **The Second Word.**

*Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise Luke 23: 43.*

Christ's second word celebrates a conversation. He just offered forgiveness to the priests, soldiers, and bystanders. Now He talks to the two thieves. One curses and abuses Him, the other defends Him. Tradition names the good thief Dismas, the remaining one is left without identity. How did Jesus convert him? We have no record that Jesus conversed with him before the Crucifixion. Nothing is said about Christ offering Dismas a last minute explanation of the gospel. Dismas had not more than a few hours to get to know Jesus. He himself would have been scourged at the pillar, possibly just before or after Jesus. He would have seen the soldiers mocking Jesus and crowning Him with thorns. He would have made the Way of the Cross with Jesus in the march to Golgotha. In short, Dismas was converted by Christ's witness more than by His words.

People listen to witnesses more than teachers. If they listen to a teacher, it is because the teacher is already a witness. Both thieves experience Christ's powerful witness. But only

one was converted. Why? Though conversion is always a grace, there are conditions which make its acceptance more favorable. The first condition is hunger for God, which Dismas showed. Secondly, there needs to be a facilitating event. Death is that event for Dismas. Lastly, one needs a facilitating person and Jesus is the person for Dismas.

- *Jesus, help me preach what I practice. Make me a Christian witness so that when I share my faith my words will ring true. Make me loving, just and merciful. Then I can speak of You with conviction.*

## **The Third Word.**

*Woman, behold your son.....Son, behold your mother John 1: 27, 28.*

Dying people often willfully hold onto life until they take care of unfinished business. So with Jesus, Who makes sure someone will take care of His mother. Then He commends the Church to Mary. In calling her women, He adds to her natural motherhood the calling to be Mother of the Church. Tradition says that John took care of Mary and brought her with him when he went to live in Ephesus. There is a two-room, stone



house shrine - called the Home of Mary - on the mountain overlooking Ephesus. Thus Mary would have practiced her motherhood of the Church in two striking ways. While she centered her life on prayer, John was translating those prayers into the words of the fourth gospel. As she continued to be the woman of deepest faith in the Church, St. Paul was evangelizing Ephesus over a two year period. It seems fair enough to say that her contemplative prayer influenced the deep spiritual quality of the fourth gospel. With little exaggeration, one can infer that Mary was a guiding star of faith for St. Paul in his preaching of the gospel to the Ephesians, because from the kernel of her living faith commitment grew the vibrant Church eagerly receptive to St. Paul's teaching and preaching.

Ephesus contains the oldest known church to have been named in honor of the Mother of God. The site of the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD, the walls and pavement of this Church of Mary have been restored. The Fathers of the Council alluded to the tradition that Mary lived at Ephesus and they declared that Mary was indeed the Mother of God, *Theotokos*. Thus Christ's third word generated a

dynamic role for His mother, whose faith and prayer mothers the Church.

- *Jesus, devoted Son, You thought of Mary's welfare before You died. You also cared enough for the Church that You gave us Mary as our mother. Her faith and prayer touched the apostles and disciples. Because of her, we are nearer to You. Glory to You, O Christ, for the gift of Your Mother!*

#### **The Fourth Word.**

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*  
Matthew 27: 46.

This cry from the Cross lets us know that Jesus wanted to feel the presence of the Eternal Father. He faces the mystery of personal pain and imminent death. The throat is as dry as baked clay. His manhood ebbs away like receding water after a storm. He watches the soldiers divide His garments and gamble for His seamless robe. He feels alone and isolated. Despite the presence of His mother and a few friends, He feels the isolation of a dying person. Just as we are born alone, we must also die alone. No one else can do it for us, even if they desperately wanted to. Even a sense of the presence of God has departed from Him. Like every

person on a death bed, Jesus struggles with the darkness and shouts a desperate "Why?" although He already knows the answer.

At Gethsemane, His body tried to pull Him away from death. Human self-preservation warred with His divine idealism. On Golgotha, the psychological suffering of aloneness forced Him to dig deeper than ever into His commitment to the goal of salvation for desperate humanity. At least an angel came to Gethsemane to comfort Him. No angel comes now. He Who would offer love to the world feels absolutely no love now. He feels within Himself how sin desolates and reduces man.

Only the purest trust and obedience to His Eternal Father will count at this hour. He does not even have the dignity of privacy in His miserable privation. He cannot contain His inner drama by closing His eyes and fighting it out in silence. It causes Him to let out a cry so robust that it startles every listener and draws us all into the story of His struggle because without a doubt, we are all an integral part of the drama of the Cross. His is not the noble, tight-lipped silence of a stoic. He will yell out His pain of

love's absence and beg for the presence of God because the price of our sin is so desperately high.

- *Abandoned Lord, You had the most public death bed in history. Let every dying person know that You also have felt the loss of love. You drew from it the trust and obedience that moves us all to hope in You because no one else can help us but You, O merciful Saviour. We do count on You to come to our rescue because we cannot help ourselves.*

#### **The Fifth Word.**

*I thirst.* John 19; 28.

At the moment of His experiencing the most abandonment, Jesus solves the dilemma by turning to and imploring every person, "Permit me to love you." He dispels the gloom of loneliness by affirming His mission to love others. The best way to overcome His experience of abandonment is to touch others in their isolation and offer them love. His physical thirst provides the image. The crowning with thorns, the scourging and the nailing caused blood loss and dehydration. Carrying the Cross through the hot dusty streets produced abundant sweat and further



decline in body moisture. The ensuing thirst is maddening. Lawrence of Arabia knew how destructive was such thirst. "Thirst was an active malady, a fear and a panic that tore at the brain and reduced the bravest and strongest man to a bumbling manic in a mere hour or two. Then the sun killed him."

Jesus turned His physical thirst into a plea for open and surrendering hearts. He is not interested in the soldiers' wine vinegar that would momentarily relieve His dry mouth. He wants to minister to the dried up souls and hearts of people and fill them with the quenching, living waters of His eternal affection. He does not want medicine for the body, He wants to administer the spiritual medicine of mercy to others.

He has made it clear He likes to be loved. That was the point of His cry of abandonment. He is far more consumed with the desire to love others. But He will not force His way into the life, into the heart and soul of another. He will just simply ask, "Let me love you." He Who created the human heart now asks permission to enter and reign in it. He Who created

life is now called upon to abandon His own life.

- *Jesus, Your thirst to bring me love honors my independence and my dignity. The Son of God and my Saviour desires my company with Him for all eternity. You want me to desire Your love, but will not compel me. I open my heart and soul to You, dear Lord; permit me to truly love You.*

### **The Sixth Word.**

*It is finished* John 19: 30.

Jesus now speaks as the High Priest which He is in this declaration. He uses a liturgical formula that signals the end of a sacrifice. His passion and death unified forms of biblical sacrifice into one act of saving worship. A holocaust consumed a victim and transformed it into a pleasing and acceptable offering to God. Christ's body is consumed, but His real holocaust is the total surrender of His person to God the Father. In the atonement sacrifice, a goat symbolically carried away the sins of the people in the desert. Christ's sacrifice of His life gave birth to the Church, where people are reconciled to themselves, others and God. A third type was the libation or wine-pouring. The liquid was poured

into the earth as a symbolic toast of gratitude to God for favors and blessings received. Jesus' "wine" was the human blood-life that poured out of Him that we might be infused with divine life. The fourth type is the bread offering, twelve loaves of bread placed in the Temple each week to praise God for His life-sustaining power. Jesus becomes the bread that is broken so that we may have life here and life eternal hereafter. Finally, the Passover celebrates the divine liberation of God's people. Jesus turned that meal into a Eucharistic celebration which marks divine liberation of God's people from sin and oppression.

Somewhere around three o'clock on Holy and Great Friday, the priest at the Temple sacrificed the last Passover lamb and said, "It is finished." On Golgotha, from the Cross Jesus transformed in God's sacrificial Lamb, peacefully says, "It is finished." The work of redemption is complete, except for man's participation and cooperation with it. Love can do no more. In fact, love need not do more.

- *I adore You my Lord and I love. You. I thank You and praise You for redeeming me, the most unworthy of*

*Your creation. I sing Your beauty and rest and exalt in Your presence.*

#### **The Seventh Word.**

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit* Luke 23: 46.

The seventh and final word of our Lord is a devotional night prayer taught in biblical times to children. Jesus uses these words, so lovingly and tenderly imprinted on His heart and soul as a child by devoted parents, Mary and Joseph. Placed on His holy lips by good example, they form His farewell from the Cross. It is a prayer that gathers up His whole person and peacefully places Him in God's arms. The mood of acceptance permeates His last word.

After His death, certain prodigies occur. One is the tearing of the veil of the Temple. That seems to relate to the soldier tearing His side open with a lance. Ripping away the veil from the Temple where the presence of God was manifested in deep mystery is a way of saying that, with the death of Jesus, God is now revealed to everyone in the grace of His Body, the Church. Opening the veil of Christ's Body allows the water of baptism and

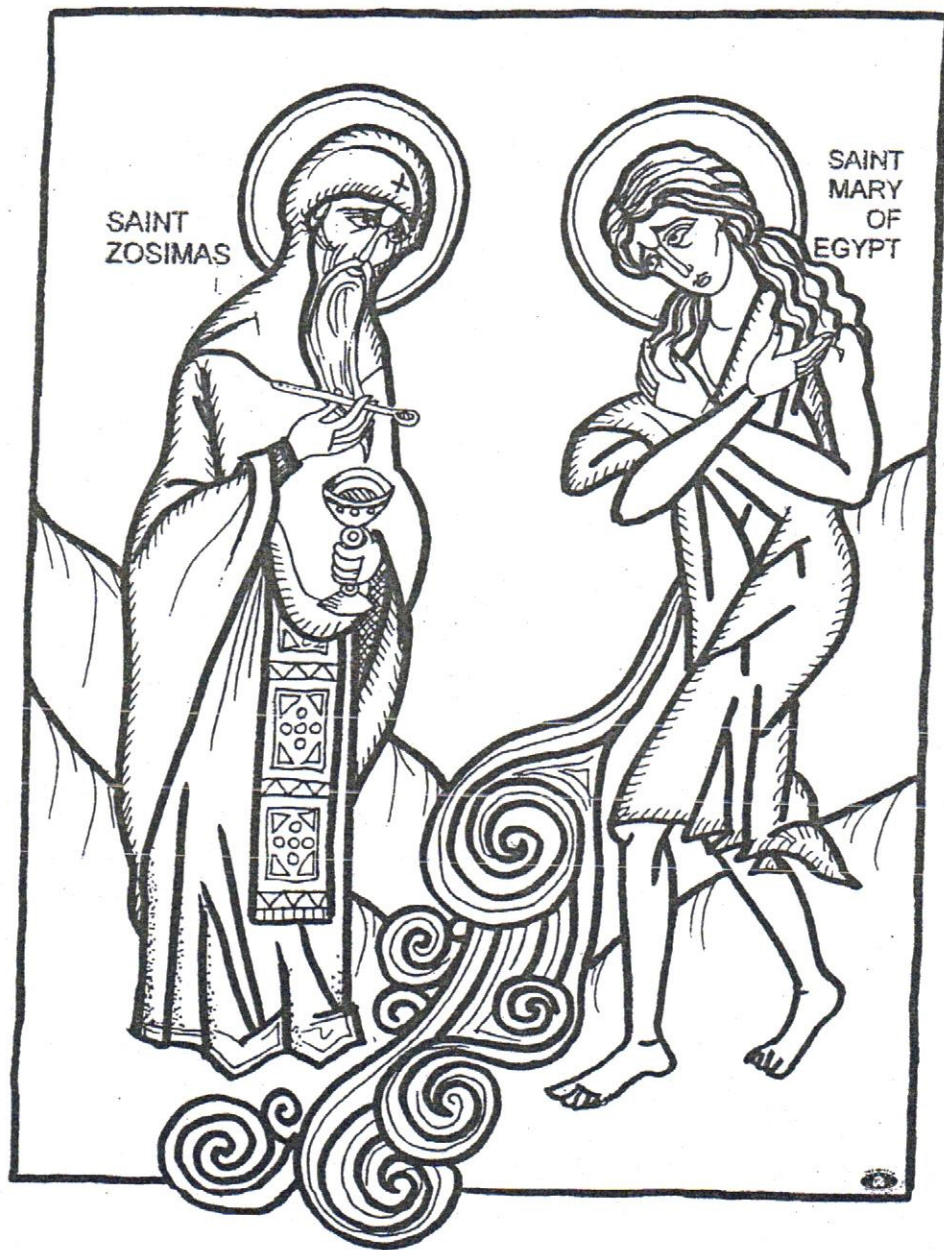


the blood of the Eucharist to flow to us. The Church Fathers loved to view this event as an image of the Church being born from the side of Christ in the sacramental Mystery of Baptism and being nourished and sustained in the blessed Eucharist. They think of the creation of Eve from the side of Adam and how his love protected and sustained her in paradise. They conclude also that the parting of His veil of flesh occasioned the parting of the temple veil and the revelation unveiling of God's redeeming presence for the whole world. .

Joseph of Arimathea provided the grave tomb and Nicodemus gave the burial spices. In the tomb they laid Him. Love by hatred slain thinking that He would never again awaken. Laid in the earth like a grain that sleeps unseen, Love is come again when arising vibrantly fresh and green.

- *Jesus, You are like the seed of bread under the snow. You will be wheat arising green. Silently, within the depth of my heart and soul, I await You. Find in me worthy soil that Your Word may prosper in the fertility of Your grace.*







## Older and Better

*Even though our outward man is perishing yet the inward man is  
being renewed day by day*

**2 Corinthians 4: 16.**

When Paul Molitor of the Minnesota Twins baseball team got his 3,000<sup>th</sup> hit as a major leaguer, he won a small but significant victory for everyone over 40 years of age. He showed that he still had great skills at an age when most players had long ago retired.

No matter how hard we try, no one of us can hold back the natural process of aging. Many try to find doctors who for a brief moment can seem to reverse the process, enough to let the imaginary mind get a brief moment of passing satisfaction. We can exercise, eat right, put on moisturizing lotions and sprays, but we still get older. That undeniable truth is found dropping from the lips of St. Paul the Apostle when he observes, "...our outward man is perishing."

Enough seemingly bad news! Lets emphasize the good news in contrast. At the same time our bodies rush relentlessly toward destruction, we can enjoy a youthful vitality in our walk with our heavenly Father. Through the constant renewal of our spirit, we grow more and more prepared to be with our Creator God. Spiritual age, then, does not have the same effect as physical age. Instead of slowing down as we walk longer with our God, we should be enjoying a more sprightly step. The longer we fellowship with him, the better off we should be. We should not be looking simply forward to enjoying a mere physical reward in this life and how much we wish to "live" the good life.

Yet, we must and should be growing spiritually. The afflictions we bear are helping us store up heavenly strength and glory, not weighing us down. It is true, if you are walking with Christ, you are not just getting physically older, you are getting better in the sight of our God. If we live as devoted Christians should, we will be preparing to be comfortable in the eternal kingdom, not strangers to its values!

To what extent does our society emphasize physical beauty and downplay spiritual attributes? The vital question is "What can I do to improve my spiritual fitness?" As we grow more Christ-like, we grow more beautiful in the sight of our Creator!

## **Priestly Prayer From The Interior Soul**

**Grant me, O Lord, that wisdom which  
stands beside your throne,  
that I may know how to judge your people with justice,  
and your poor ones with equity.**

**Let me so use the keys of the kingdom of heaven that I  
may open no one upon whom they should shut,  
or close them to any for whom they should be opened.**

**May my intention be pure, my zeal sincere,  
my charity patient, my labor fruitful.**

**Let me be gentle without weakness, severe without harshness.**

**Let me not disdain poor souls,  
nor fawn upon those of rich spiritual life.**

**Make me kind that I may attract sinners to forgiveness,  
prudence in questioning them, forthright in directing them.**

**Grant I ask You, skill to lead them back into the flock  
from sin, zeal in confirming them in good,  
diligence in elevating them to  
better things and new directions.**

**Grant me good judgment in answering questions,  
correctness in counseling.**

**Give me light when things are obscure,  
wisdom when they are entangled,  
victory when they are difficult.**

**Dear Lord, may I myself not be lost!**



# **THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS**

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**Devoted Prayer**

**+++**

**Ongoing Sacramental Life**

**+++**

**Regular Worship**

**+++**

**translates into serious**

**CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**++++**

**putting theory into action**

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# Lazarus Saturday





# A Slave

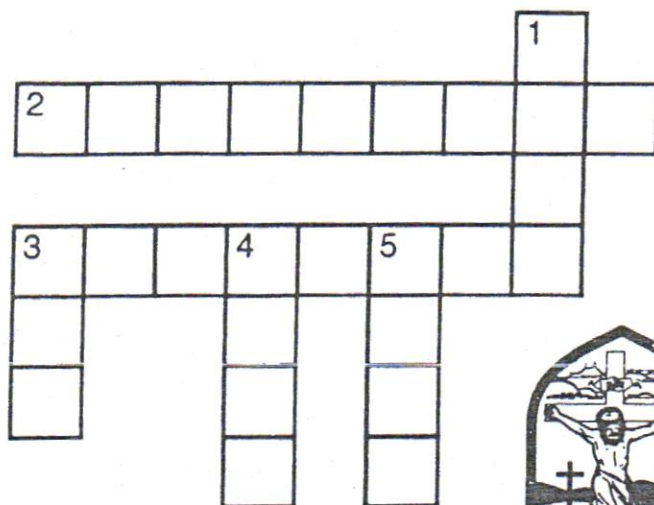
Read Mark 10:35-38, 40-45. Beginning with column number 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Copy the letter at the left of the dot onto the first blank.

Word search grid with letters A-W on the left and numbers 1-26 on top. The grid contains dots indicating the start of words.

Vertical strip on the left: F, E, R, E, S, T

# THE CRUCIFIXION

Hint: Look for help in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23 & John 19



## ACROSS

- 2 When Jesus reached the hill he was \_\_\_\_  
 3 After Jesus was crucified the soldiers took his \_\_\_\_

## DOWN

- 1 A sign was nailed over Jesus' head that said "King of the \_\_\_\_"  
 3 Jesus called to \_\_\_\_ asking why He had been forsaken  
 4 The wife of Cleophas  
 5 Darkness covered the land from \_\_\_\_ until three in the afternoon





# How to Tie a Really Fast Knot

*There's a right way and a wrong way to do everything. And it doesn't take any longer to do it the right way.*

—Floyd Hurdle, a Good Dad of Three

**T**ying any knot can be a real labor for children. In most cases, they'll worry the knot into existence, checking and rechecking each twist and loop. By learning to tie one knot really fast, your child will be challenged to work faster in other areas.

How fast can he tie this knot? As quickly as he can put his hands together and take them apart. The secret: he needs to use his two middle fingers as hooks. Just for the record, this is a two-way mast hitch, originally used by sailors to hold two masts together.

**1.** Have him start with the rope held loosely (figure a). His hands should be about two or three feet apart, right palm turned away from him, left palm turned toward him. When he's holding the rope right, both thumbs will point in the same direction, as shown.

**2.** Now have him bring his palms together, making one loop in the rope.

**3.** He should then make a hook out of each middle finger. Now with his right middle finger, he catches the rope where it trails below his left hand. At the same time, with his left middle finger, he catches the rope where it emerges from the top of his right hand (figure b).

**4.** Holding the rope with only his two middle fingers, he snaps his hands apart, and the rope instantly tightens into a knot (figure c). And there it is! The two-way mast hitch (figure d).

With a little practice, he can now tie a knot as fast as he can clap his hands. And each time he does, he'll remember the key to success nowadays isn't just what you know. It's also how fast you know it.

The page is framed by a wide, ornate border. The top and bottom borders are filled with intricate, symmetrical floral and scrollwork patterns. The left and right borders are narrower, featuring vertical bands of stylized leaves and flowers. The corners are decorated with small, square motifs. The entire border is rendered in a dark, possibly black or dark brown, ink or paint.

**Remaining**

**Pure**

**in**

**Christ**



STRENGTHEN



HOLY  
FAITH

## HOW TO DEAL WITH LUST

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

*1 Corinthians 6:15-20*

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

*Galatians 5:16-17*



No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness . . . nor give place to the devil.

*Ephesians 4:22-24, 27*

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

*James 4:7*

Do not lust after her beauty in your heart,  
Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.  
For by means of a harlot  
A man is reduced to a crust of bread;  
And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

*Proverbs 6:25-26*

Now therefore, listen to me, my children;  
Pay attention to the words of my mouth:  
Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,  
Do not stray into her paths;

For she has cast down many wounded,  
And all who were slain by her were strong men.  
Her house is the way to hell,  
Descending to the chambers of death.

*Proverbs 7:24-27*

Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.

*2 Peter 2:9*

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

*James 1:2-4*

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

*Hebrews 4:15*

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.

*2 Corinthians 10:4*

He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house,  
But he who hates bribes will live.



The LORD is far from the wicked,  
But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

*Proverbs 15:27, 29*

So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

*Mark 11:15, 17*

A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,  
And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

*Proverbs 28:22*

For riches are not forever,  
Nor does a crown endure to all generations.

*Proverbs 27:24*

For in that day every man shall throw away his idols of silver and his idols of gold—sin, which your own hands have made for yourselves.

*Isaiah 31:7*

If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed,

rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

*Matthew 18:8-9*

But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell.

*1 Corinthians 10:5-8*

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Therefore do not be partakers with them.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

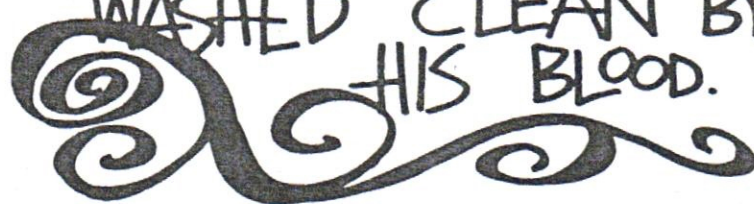
(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) . . .

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

*Ephesians 5:5, 7-9. 18*



WE HAVE BEEN  
WASHED CLEAN BY  
HIS BLOOD.

A large, stylized black swirl graphic that starts under the word 'WASHED' and flows horizontally across the bottom of the text, ending under the word 'BLOOD'.

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## A FORESHADOWING OF THINGS TO COME

**C**hrist's earthly ministry was generously marked with the performance of a multitude of miracles. He restored sight to the blind. He made the lame walk. He cast out demons from those who were possessed. No miracle, however, matched the magnitude of what our Lord did on the outskirts of the village of Bethany. He raised Lazarus from the dead.

The celebration of this event on the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday dates back to the early centuries of the Church. The Gospel of St. John chronicles the circumstances leading up to this miracle. Lazarus, a personal friend of our Saviour, falls ill and dies. It is four days until Christ arrives at the home of Martha and Mary – sisters of Lazarus – to offer them comfort. When He sees the depth of their sorrow, Jesus goes to the tomb of His friend and call out: "*Lazarus, come fourth!*" Imagine the shock of those present when Lazarus, bound in burial cloths, emerges from the grave!

With the raising of Lazarus, Christ reveals Himself to be the Lord of both the living and the dead, the Conqueror of death and God Almighty Himself. The publicity caused by this miracle contributed greatly to Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He was greeted not only as a Prophet, but as the Messiah, Lord and King.

This wonderful miracle should strengthen our own faith in the Divinity of Christ and in our own personal resurrection. Jesus Himself assured us: "*I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*" (Jn 11:25)

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