

Sermon Title: Open the Tomb
Text: John 11:1-45
By: Rev. Terry Carty
Date: 04-10-2011
Place: Kingston Springs UMC
Season: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Main Point: Jesus can resurrect us to live The Life that he taught the disciples to live.

This sermon is preached to the congregation during 'Children's Time.' The Third Graders will read John 11:1-45 as a reader's theater.

Narrator: *Jesus had been informed that one of his most beloved friends, Lazarus, was gravely ill. But he insisted that this illness would not lead to death but would be used by God as a witness to the Son of God. But word came to Jesus that Lazarus had died and all were saddened by the news. Jesus insisted that this was the time to go to the home of Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus. Before Jesus arrived, Martha got word that he was on his way, and she hurried out to meet him.*

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.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

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

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?

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

Narrator: *And having said this, Martha returned home to tell Mary that she had spoken with Jesus, who was on his way to see them. Mary got up quickly and ran out of the house to see Jesus.*

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

Jesus: Where have you laid him?

Mary: Lord, come and see.

Narrator: *They led Jesus to the tomb in which Lazarus had been laid. All those who followed Mary and Jesus were amazed and moved by his love for his friend Lazarus. Jesus wept. When they arrived at the cave, Jesus gave them instruction.*

Jesus: Take away the stone.

replace them. That is a kind of resurrection because people sometime come alive again even when they would have otherwise been dead.

But Jesus said he was the resurrection AND THE LIFE. He didn't mean he wanted to resurrect people to live just any kind of life. Jesus raises people up to live a particular kind of life – the kind of life that Jesus taught his disciples how to live.

So Jesus actually made Lazarus come back to life after he was really dead. But Jesus can resurrect us to a new life even when we are living. Jesus wants us to live like the disciples did so we good use of this new life.

We can learn about the particular life that Jesus gives us in the Bible. Today the Third Graders will get a special gift of a Bible from the Church. The Bible is one way that the church helps Jesus roll back the stone from the tomb (or open our minds for understanding) so we can come out to Live the Life as resurrection people.