

July 29th

Saints LAZARUS, MARTHA and MARY, hosts of the Lord

Memorial

Lazarus, Martha and Mary were friends of the Lord and it was in their home in Bethany that he would rest from the hardships of his public life. Jesus really shared our humanity and he loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. A witness to the grief of the two sisters, he himself wept at the grave of his friend.

Some episodes of the Gospel show Martha as more practical, bustling about and busy with the household chores, while they depict Mary as more peaceful and attentively listening to the Lord (Luke 10: 33-42, John 11. 12). Lazarus, emerging alive from the grave, was like a sign that, according to St John, would hasten the death of Christ.

The texts of this Eucharist are an invitation to faith, that is, to listen and to receive the Word as Mary did, and to trust in Him who can make the dead come to life, for He himself is the resurrection and the life. Believing in Jesus, the Messiah and the Son of God, is already the beginning of resurrection.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Luke 10: 38

As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, whose Son was pleased to be welcomed as a guest in the home of Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, grant, we pray, that through their intercession, and serving Christ faithfully in our brothers and sisters, we may merit to be received by you into eternity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the first letter of saint Peter Apostle 4: 7-11

The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers. Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 84: 2. 3. 4-5. 11. 13. (R. Luke 11: 28)

R. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God.

2. Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself
in which she sets her young, at your altars,
O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

3. Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.
Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.

4. One day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.
The threshold of the house of God
I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked.
O LORD of hosts, how blessed
is the man who trusts in you!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 10: 41-42

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her".

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to saint John

11: 1-2. 32-45

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell 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 had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, who nourished Mary with your divine word as she sat at the feet of your Son, grant that, through the power of this sacrifice, we may never cease to listen to this same word and to put it into practice.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON John 11: 27

Martha said to Jesus, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, whose Son Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, thus announcing our own resurrection, grant that those who have received in this divine food a pledge of future glory, may render perpetual thanks to you.

Through Christ our Lord.