

Sermon 8th September 2024

Death defeated

- Visit to Community of St John the Divine. Originators of Call the Midwife series. Great pleasure, but sometimes pain and loss too.
- Jesus death achieved two things – victory over sin, and death defeated – eternal life!
- All our readings point in that direction. Job is prophetic. Corinthians – God is sovereign – but Lazarus is high point – public arena, mourners, family / friends
- Jesus Journey – waits... 3 days are significant
- Martha, his friend, challenges him – where have you been – he died waiting!!
- Jesus response – echoes down the ages and repeated at most Christian funerals – *“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?’”*
- Mary has a go too – Jesus response in deeds not words.
- Disturbed & greatly moved / groaned & was troubled same Greek word as money changers in the temple *aggrieved / angry – tears – Jesus wept – deep emotion.*
- Why tears – suffering and loss, but knowing HE was the answer
- Prays – *‘So they may believe that you sent me’*

- Tomb / Martha (putrefied body) / stone moved away
- Jesus commands – just Lazarus!
- Dead man walking
- Death is NOT the end – we have a sure and certain HOPE
- Lazarus! Love to have been there – can you imagine?
- Do you believe this?
- Gods supreme rule over the earth, even life & death
- A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... happens to us all
- Jesus took a huge risk in public ally exposing who he really was
- Why do I believe this – not first time happened – Centurion (Luke 7) & Little Girl (Mark 5)
- Plot to kill Jesus – he had become too dangerous
- HOPE – eternal life
- What about US What about YOU?

Blessing:

May God our Father hold you each day in his love.

May Christ, who died and rose again, give you hope.

May the Spirit empower you to come through all suffering.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you & those you love, this day & always.



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