

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 14th October 2022

By Revd John Ohen

Jesus wept.

There are many situations in life that could make us cry. Recently one of our church windows was broken into, later we cannot worship in our church because of various building works, the mass shooting of babies in a nursery in Thailand, the death of Princess Diana or the death of the Queen, and when our Lord Jesus wept, the list goes on.

Jesus wept John (11. 35), the shortest verse of the whole Bible. How wonderful that the one who had power to life and death who would show that he is the Resurrection and the Life, should weep openly for his dead friend. If we knew the heart of God, we would weep too because it reaches out to us in our need, poverty, and humanity. Jesus word to Lazarus are the same to us today. "Take off the grave clothes and let him go" (11. 44).

Jesus' miracle of raising his dead friend Lazarus from the dead must certainly be one of the most powerful chapters in the bible and makes a compelling reading. We are informed by John that Lazarus was dead for four days, which means that decomposition may have started. This means that, all hopes of Lazarus coming back to life had gone. Mather, Lazarus's sister went out to meet Jesus as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, but Mary stayed indoors faced with her brother's untimely death. Martha made a remarkable proclamation that "she believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world." This is like Peter's great confession (v. 27; Matthew 16.16). When Peter made the proclamation Jesus said that this revelation could only come from God the Father. In the end Martha's faith was rewarded with surely one of the greatest miracles in the New Testament. As Jesus was able to bring back Lazarus back to life. So, Jesus can heal us from any difficult situation we may find ourselves, if only we believe. Through the grace of baptism, the Lord speaks these words to us, because this grace ushers in the new life of the spirit and the opportunity for us to live as God's children and inherit everlasting life.

Bible Passage: John 11. 19 – 27.

Prayer: Lord you said that if we believed we would see the glory of God. The glory of the risen life in us, is the glory of being fully human, fully alive, enjoying your presence in this life and in the life to come. Amen.