

## Lectio Divina

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| > <b>Read and re-read</b> , out loud and slowly<br>the Gospel                      | > <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving - Repentance -<br>Petition         |
| > <b>Meditate</b> on reading as being spoken to<br>you, an experience in your life | > <b>Action</b> - Attitude (Call to change / to<br>act / to do) |
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### April 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - Year A - John 11: 1 - 45

In this week's Gospel we see Jesus in the village of Bethany where Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary lived and he was very ill. Jesus loved the sisters and their brother. He leads Martha and Mary to a new insight into the power of faith over death by his power of teaching and by commanding Martha to take away the stone. He tells them he was glad that he was not there when Lazarus died because now by seeing they will believe. He brings Lazarus out of the tomb - "unbind him and let him go free". Faced with bondage Jesus is armed with love, trust in the Father and deep compassion. Jesus returns to his place of death in perfect freedom, because of his own belief which is the inner light that keeps him going. When are the times we were like Lazarus in the tomb, rejected, discouraged, in despair, feeling that life was not worth living? Sometimes we were overwhelmed by guilt and we just wanted to hide ourselves away from the world. Who was the special person that moved away the stone and released us from our heavy burden.

### Prayer:

Thank you for the times when we were like Lazarus in the tomb, rejected, discouraged, in despair, feeling that life was not worth living, you sent a special person to release us from our bondage. Forgive us for the times that we were not aware that some people who seem so alive are really in a tomb. Some have become cynical and have no hope in their future. Lord fill our hearts with the love Jesus had for Lazarus and his sisters. Help us to be your hands and your feet in this world and walk without stumbling because we are walking in your light.

