

## **John 11:32-44**

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt 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 came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

The Gospel of Christ...

## **Jesus Wept**

Today we hear that ancient story of Jesus approaching the tomb of his beloved friend, Lazarus. Lazarus' sisters both turn to him in rage – "how can you have let him die? How could you let us down?" We know those feeling, they echo in our hearts when our beloved friends and family die. We cry, we rage... but if we stop and listen, we can see one more thing. We can see as Jesus himself stops and drops to his knees and weeps. Even the Son of God mourns. God's very heart is broken.

Graveyard near Martie.

*The Dash* – Linda Ellis

In graveyards and memorials, we are reminded of the countless people of faith who have gone before us, whose stories are lost to time. Each one laughed and each one cried; each one struggled with family and each one spent time with friends; they all danced at weddings and mourned at funerals. Each one cried over scraped knees and broken hearts. Each one lived a life unique and different from any other person, yet their entire lives are condensed down to one tiny dash. But God knows the stories of these dashes and each one is also a child of God.

In old graveyards, hundreds of miles away, we can only guess at the stories that lie between the dash, but today we celebrate the lives of those we knew. We may not know it all... we certainly cannot capture every memory and thought. But we hold tight to our own memories, our own thoughts, our own treasured glimpses into beloved lives lived.

And that is the challenge for us today and every day. To hold on to those memories, to store them in our hearts, to cherish them, to pass them down to our children and grandchildren. To honor those huge and important lives that are symbolized by such a little dash on fading gravestones. To remember that God honors each life lived and welcomes each beloved child home.

So as we prepare to remember beloved lives lived. To ring bells and light candles, remember these ancient words of Revelation:

*'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
God will dwell with them;  
they will be God's peoples,  
and God will be with them;  
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'*

## ***Names***

*Dorothy "Dot" Benedict*

*Nathan Cox*

*Michael Donmoyer*

*Martha "Marty" Matthews Fuhrman*

*Russel "Butch" Fuhrman*

*Gerry hanberry*

*Shelley Keeney*

*Kenneth Ludwig*

*Cindy McAllister*

*Mary Agnes Peeling*

*James Penick Jr*

*Steven Larry Robert's*

*Ellen Sanchez*

*Robert "Bob" Swan*

*Nancy Unterman*

*Claire Vey*

*Dennis Wisner*

*Robert Yeoman*