



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
March 26, 2023
10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday in
Lent



40 DAYS
OF
Lent



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel



"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up regular giving



Open Communion

All Christians and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we invite all people to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 10:00am
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.

PRELUDE Selected

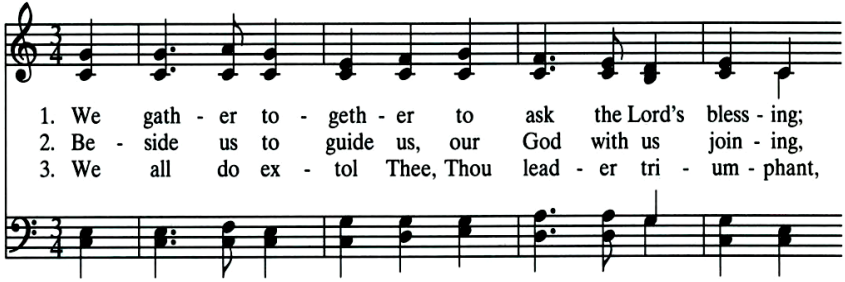
THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

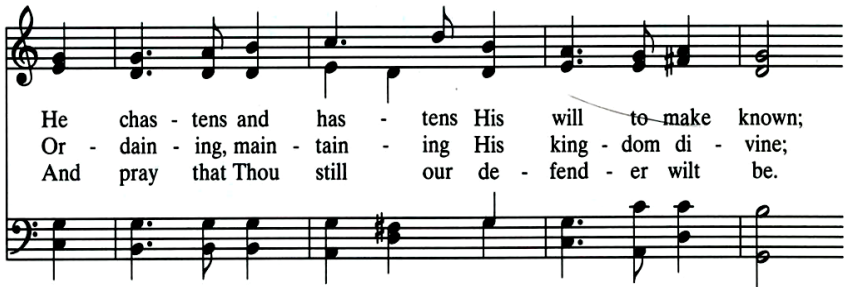
Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Our Call to Worship this morning is in song; let us sing the first verse of "We Gather Together" SSB # 12



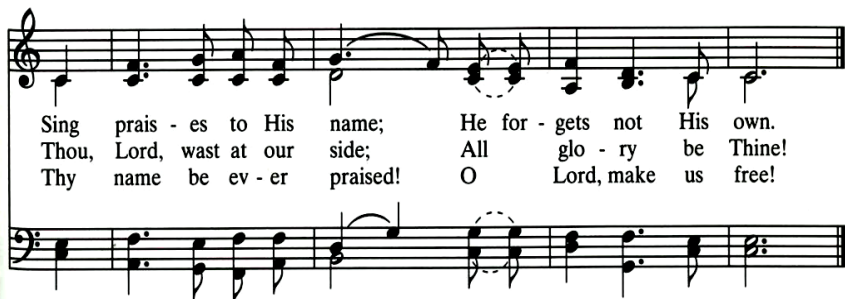
1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,



He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
 Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
 And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.



The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
 So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;



Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!
 Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

CALL TO CONFESSION

- P: Paul teaches us that to set the mind on the flesh is death. Focused only on our own interests, we cannot see God.**
- C: The law of God is foreign to us, and we get hostile to its demands. To live in sin – separation from God – is death.**
- P: Let us come now to the promise of life as we confess our sin. First let us read the prayer silently to ourselves, in hopes of owning it; then we'll pray it aloud together.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Out of the depths we cry to You, O God! Hear our prayers, the confession of our neglect, the admission of our desire to rule in Your place. Like the house of Israel in Ezekiel's time, we are cut off from communion with You. We are like dead people, going through the motions of living. We cry out for forgiveness and a new start. We long to know You, and to live in reverence before You. By Your steadfast love, redeem us from our iniquities, and raise us up to serve You, in the matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

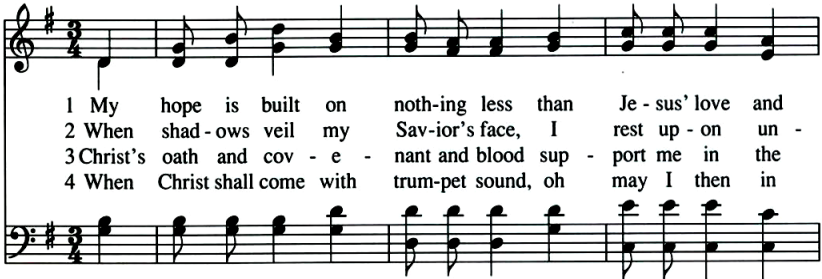
ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Isaiah 55:6,7*

P: Jesus said in John, “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who has descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (3:13-15).

Eternal life is not just living with God throughout eternity, it also is about a quality of life we are granted now, by the grace of God, and that quality can only exist if our sins have been forgiven, and we are Spirit-empowered to rise above their grasp. In the name and by the blood of Christ, our sins are forgiven! A life revealing the realm of God within us is ours to claim. What, if anything, might we sinners under grace say in response to the gospel?

A: Praise and thanks be to God!

HYMN "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" SSB #8

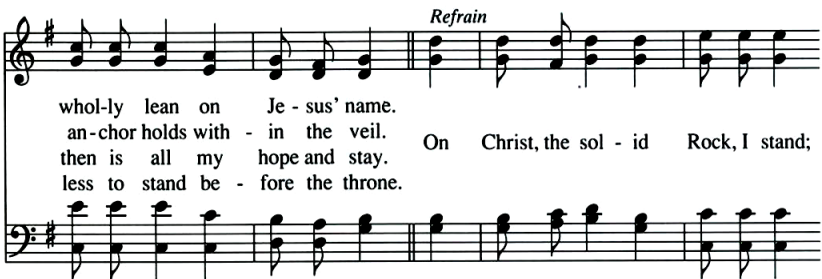


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh may I then in



right - ous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain



whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS/OGHS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophet:

Judy Paige
Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Gospel:

John 11:1-45

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

SERMON "A Purpose of God's Power"

HYMN

"Spirit of Gentleness"

SSB #30

Refrain

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
 From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the c - ons you called to each thing;
 and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
 and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
 then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
 when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
 With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Refrain

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley

Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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CHARGE

- P: Put away the past. God is about to do a new thing!
 God makes a way where there is no way!
 God carves a path through the wilderness
 and sends angels to guard and guide us.
- C: Having been reconciled to God,
 we are now agents of God's righteousness
 and ambassadors for Christ.**
- P: Live boldly, for Christ welcomes sinners
 and makes all things new.

BENEDICTION

- P: Loving God, move us from tragedy to blessing.
 Strong Jesus, move us from fear to trust.
 Guiding Spirit, move us from despair to hope,
 And let Your love surround us and fill us with peace.
 Amen.
- C: Amen!!**

POSTLUDE

Selected

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

News in the Pews

“Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love” (Psalm 130:7, ESV). Welcome to worship, one and all.

Today is our Village Inn Food Fundraiser! Please plan to order from them, mention St. Peter’s fundraiser and we’ll get 20% of whatever you spend. Good for carryout, delivery and dine-in!

Thanks to everyone who was able to come and pitch in on an All-Church Clean-up yesterday afternoon!

Please welcome Charlotte Rivard-Hoster, a long-time friend of Ben’s, who is leading our music this morning while he enjoys a vacation! She has previously played in other U.C.C. churches, and we’re glad she is with us this morning.

We ask everyone in attendance this morning to please fill out the attendance sheet in the black pew pads, and, after it seems even latecomers have arrived, please pass your pew’s pad towards the center aisle. Our Deacon will pick them up after the service. Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who served in the various ministries of the church this morning, in ministries of

education (Sunday School), hospitality (ushers, Nursery attendant, chairlift operator), worship (Deacon, Lector, live-streamer), and administration (President, counters). We also thank all of YOU for attending!

The Lenten Soup-n-Study concludes this Wednesday evening, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, time looking at John 4:6b-26, 39-42.

HOLY WEEK: Palm Sunday is next Sunday! There is no Sunday School that day, or on Easter. We'll have our 7:00 PM worship services on Maundy Thursday (4/6), Good Friday (4/7). Communion will be celebrated Maundy Thursday. EASTER – Resurrection Sunday – is Sunday, April 9th! Worship begins at 10 AM. We'll plan for an attended Nursery. There will again be Communion, an Anthem, joyous music and a homily celebrating the power of God at work in raising Jesus from the dead. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for kids in grades 5 and younger following worship. THEN at 11:30 our EASTER BRUNCH, a first for St. Peter's, held in the Memorial Room (see insert for reservations).

Easter Candy and tiny toy donations needed for our Egg Hunt!! No chocolate please. Donations can be left in the Memorial Room in an assigned container, or dropped off at the office. Thanks!

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Sue Bailey!! Blessings to you on your birthday Sue!

HOSPITALIZED: Someone for whom we've been praying recently, Ginger Kalensky's aunt Helen, entered hospice care at her son's Kenosha home last week. We continue to hold her and her family up in prayer.

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2023

ADULTS

CHILDREN 3-6

UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS _____

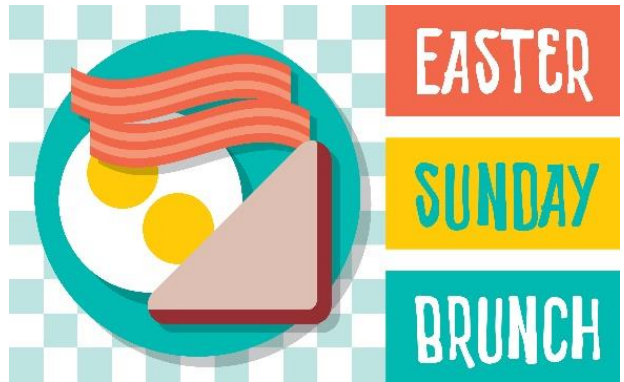
HELP SAT. 10:00AM

HELP EASTER

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

**EASTER BRUNCH
SUNDAY APRIL 9,
2023
11:30 AM**



Celebrate Easter with your church family and join us something NEW, an Easter Brunch AFTER worship! It will be served in the Fellowship Hall and the menu will include something for everyone. We are asking for donations of breads and coffee cakes. The cost this year is \$5.00 with children 3-6 \$2.00 (under 3 free). **PLEASE PAY AT THE DOOR ONLY.** We will still need reservations so please turn in THIS FORM ONLY (no payment) in your offerings/or to the church office. We will also need donations of coffee cakes, breads etc. and help, so please check those boxes too. If you have any questions contact Barb Todd and/or Rich Schneider. Hope to see you there!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 11:1-45

Breath of Hope

Traveling with his disciples, Jesus learns that his friend Lazarus is ill. Although his friends urge him to go to Lazarus at once, Jesus continues to travel and teach. When he reaches Lazarus's hometown, he meets his friends Mary and Martha, who give him the news that their beloved brother Lazarus has died. Jesus is moved to tears at this.

This is a short recap of a long story that is worth reading in its entirety. You will find in the book of John, chapter 11, if you have not heard it already in worship. As you read, notice that several times Jesus proclaims that the healing of Lazarus will be to show God's glory. This story reveals that God's glory is revealed not only when Lazarus is raised but whenever those who are bound or considered dead are set free.

As far as we know, this is the only time Jesus commands someone to "Come out!" As you read this story, listen! Is The Living Christ saying those same words to you? What death do you need to come out of?

Perhaps it is time to come out of the closet, embracing for yourself and to others in your life the totality of who God made you to be. Maybe it's time to come out of a suffocating relationship, one that stifles your growth and life. Maybe it's time to come out of a job or career, taking new steps into a new life. Maybe it's the right time to come out from under the heavy weight of limits you or others have placed on you because of your abilities.

Listen! Jesus is saying, Come out! because it shows God's glory when you live no longer bound, but as your full and true self.

And pay close attention to the end of the story. After commanding Lazarus to come out, Jesus gives another command to the wider community. They are to help to unbind the resurrected man. So, the process of coming out is not an individual one. It requires the help of a wider supportive community who can provide prayer, assistance, shelter, and encouragement.

How can you both come out yourself and support others in the process of coming out? This is how the glory of God is shown indeed!



IT'S TIME TO SHARE



One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up...
Galatians 6:9

ucc.org/oghs

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy (pron. Proph-a-sigh) to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

JOHN 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

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?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

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 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 upward 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."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.