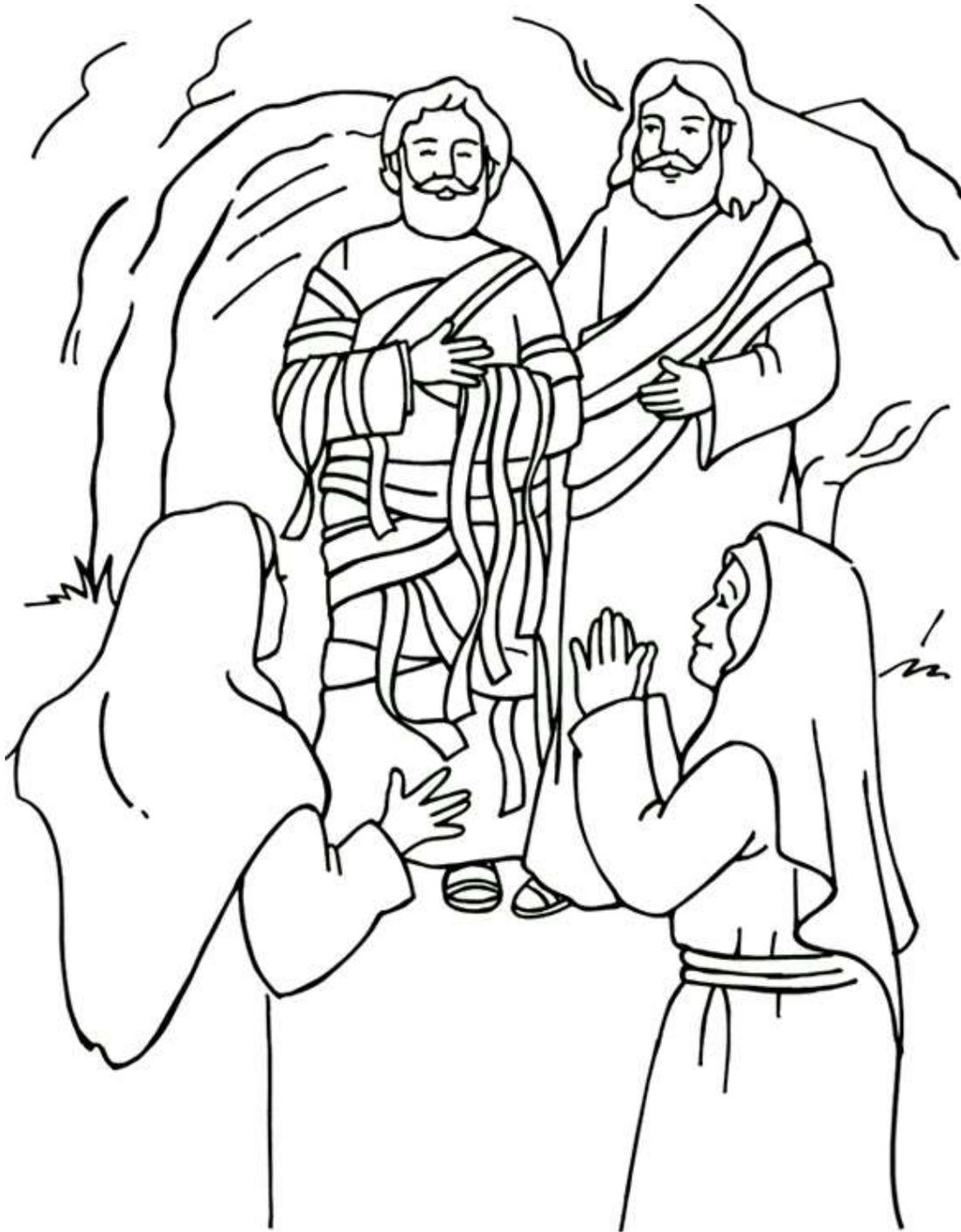


St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
APRIL 2, 2017—THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
JESUS, MARY, MARTHA, LAZARUS, AND ETERNAL LIFE



Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Martha heard that Jesus was coming, so 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."

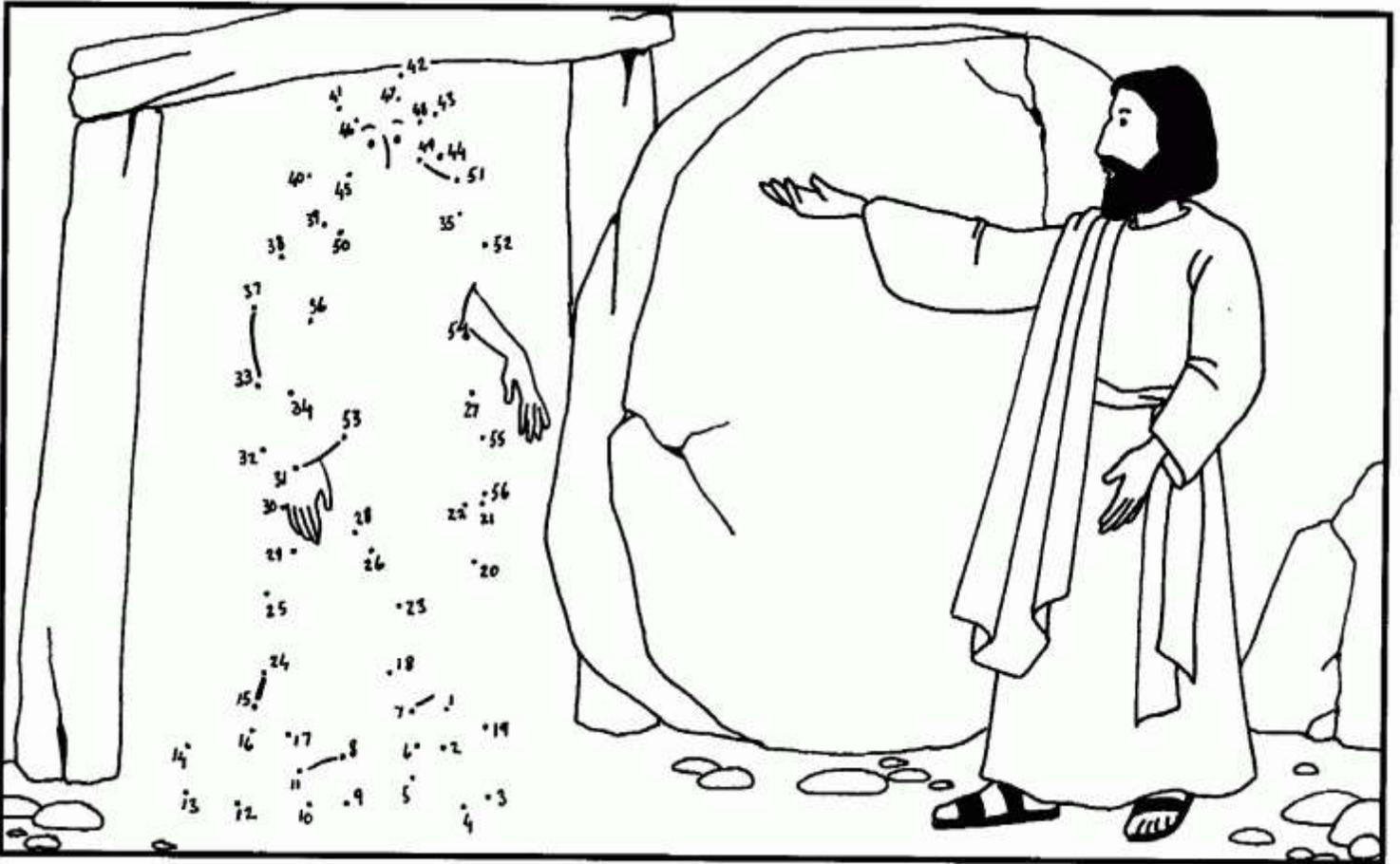
John 11:17-27

THE GOSPEL AND REAL LIFE

THE STORY OF LAZARUS

In the Gospel story today Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What did you learn from this story? We can talk with God about what troubles us: Martha and Mary told Jesus how sad they were. God knows and cares about our sorrows, difficulties and troubles: Jesus wept. Jesus himself grieved that Lazarus was dead and also over the fact that Mary and Martha were so sad. Jesus understands how we feel. Jesus enters into our feelings and emotions. We know that God wants to give us life and love: While they are sad over the death of their brother, Mary and Martha know that Jesus is the source of all life and love.

JESUS AND LAZARUS DOT-TO-DOT



BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead may be a puzzling, frightening or upsetting one for children. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to show us that God has power over death and to show us that nothing can separate us from God's love for us. Talk with your children about this story. It is not a magic trick or Halloween story and it is not an episode from the Walking Dead. Some children may think "If Jesus loved my Grandma, why did she die? Why didn't he do that for her?" Talk with your children about this. We know that our natural lives will end in death. The difference is that our natural death is not a separation from God, from Love, from Life.

Dinner Table Conversations:

If a family loved one has passed away, they haven't been raised like Lazarus. So what does Jesus promise for us? How does God love make this life better? What do you think heaven will be like?

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know.

It is posted weekly on www.stjamesbatavia.org