

PRAY EVERY DAY April 12, 2020 Resource

The Living Jesus Calls us from Death to Life from John 11:43, NRSV

...he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

A Prayer by Jan Shafer for Easter 2020

Dear Father God,

May we humble ourselves & thank You for who You are and Your gift of salvation through the sacrifice of Your son, Jesus.

May we praise You for the joy of Easter morning and the resurrection of Christ.

Thank You for the many signs of renewed creation even during these difficult days.

Thank You for a living Savior who walks with us through each one.

Forgive us Father, for our lack of praise & for doubting Your power & authority over all things.

Help those who are struggling, suffering or mourning today. Calm & comfort them.

Renew our spirit & strengthen our faith.

Help us to see Easter in every day and have hope & joy in each one.

Help us share the love & hope You have given us Lord, with someone each day.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

More resources at www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge

March 25 – April 14 "Fruit of the Spirit: Love"

April 15 – May 5 "Fruit of the Spirit: Joy"

April 13: Lamentations 3:21-24

April 17: James 1:2-4

April 14: Philippians 2:1-11

April 18: 1 Kings 8:65-66

April 15: Galatians 5:22-26

April 19: 1 Chronicles 16:23-34

April 16: Psalm 16 (v. 11)

Small Group or Personal Study

Read John 11:1-45.

- Jesus was four days "stinking" late to prevent Lazarus from dying and a lot of people said it: Martha, Mary, and some of those who were mourning. When has it seemed like Jesus was missing in a time of need or arrived too late?

- Jesus wept so at the tomb of Lazarus that some of the mourners noted how much Jesus loved Lazarus. What other examples can you recall of God weeping, grieving, or mourning in the Bible? What does the weeping of Jesus at the tomb of his friend say to you about Jesus? What is happening in the world or your life that is making you cry at this time? What is happening in the world or your life that would bring God's compassionate tears?

- Martha, one of Jesus' most faithful disciples, did not seem very hopeful when Jesus asked people to remove the stone from the tomb. She noted again Lazarus was "stinking" dead and it had been four days. When have you felt that it was too late for Jesus for to give life to someone else or yourself? When has Jesus asked you to remove an obstacle, like rolling a stone away, when it seemed like it would do no good? What happened?

- Jesus called to Lazarus after there was a way out of the tomb provided by the community because they rolled away the stone. How might God be calling to give life in

you or someone else today? How might the church roll away stones and remove obstacles from people being raised to life in God's grace?

- When Lazarus came out from the tomb he was still bound up in the grave clothes. Jesus directed people to "unbind him, and let him go" (v. 44). When God brings us to life in Jesus and clothes us in grace, we are not to keep ourselves or others in death clothes. The resurrection power of Jesus does not only give more life, but gives us the freedom and peace of the children of God to be free from sin and anything that would hinder our love for God, neighbor, and self. Are there any grave clothes you are still wearing that you need to discard and put on instead the grace of Jesus Christ? How might you help unbind someone taking steps in faith toward Jesus, so they may walk more freely with God?

Spend time in silence

Prayer for others and yourself

The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Call to Pray at Noon Every Day

Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
AMEN.

Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share about it this week in small group for support and prayer.

Jesus' Words of Hope to Martha from John 11:25-26, NRSV

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."