



# DEVOTIONS FOR LIFE

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

**Week of March 6, 2022 (John 11:1-44 )**

## A Prayer for Peace:

Let there be peace on earth  
 And let it begin with me.  
 Let There Be Peace on earth  
 The peace that was meant to be  
 With God our Creator,  
 Children all are we  
 Let us walk with each other  
 In perfect harmony  
 Let peace begin with me  
 Let this be the moment now.  
 With ev'ry step I take  
 Let this be my solemn vow:  
 To take each moment  
 And live each moment  
 In peace eternally.  
 Let there be peace on earth  
 And let it begin with me  
 (Let There Be Peace, United  
 Methodist Hymnal #430)



## Devotions for Life A LifeGroup & Personal Resource

### The Story: John 11:1-43

**Context:** Alright, now it's really time to buckle up. This week's story is GINORMOUS! Not only is it long, but its significance cannot be overstated. This story is Jesus resurrecting Lazarus. We have just wrapped up The Good Shepherd with Jesus saying, "The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." And what's one of the next things he does? HE RESURRECTS SOMEONE FROM THE DEAD! He kills death.



There is a lot that happens in this resurrection, but one of the key elements to this story is that, unlike in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, this is the catalyst for the religious elite to say "enough and enough" and see to it that Jesus is arrested. Resurrecting someone from the dead is either a blasphemous carnival trick, or so beyond anything imaginable that it is too much of a threat to power. Keep that in mind.

Another thing to keep in mind is what follows this story. In John 12 we see that the Lazarus story continues. He is

## Acts of Compassion & Justice:

### MN Food Share Month:

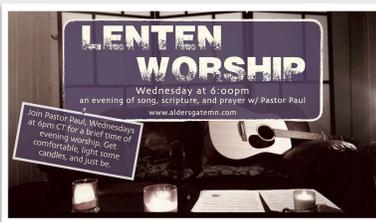
Welp, March is upon us, and that means Minnesota Foodshare Month! MN Foodshare month is a statewide effort every March to support local food shelves and other organizations that help with food insecurity. We, of course, will be holding a food drive for STEP, with a focus on their stated need of Cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Support STEP!



**Ukraine Support:** We have still not heard anything specific of the needs in Ukraine nor the mechanisms to meet those needs. But we do anticipate the needs to be great and we plan to respond accordingly. So stay tuned for ways we can support Ukraine. In the meantime, you can trust that financial gifts to UMCOR's Global Ministries will go to Ukrainian relief.

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Join Pastor Paul online on Wednesdays in Lent at 6pm CT for a brief Vespers service of song, scripture, and prayer.



hosting a meal and is reclining at the table with Jesus. Remember, this whole concept of belief and life in Jesus in John's Gospel is about intimate relationship. And that's what we see in John 12 (among other things).

### Reading the Story:

There are so many angles to this story, that there's a lot to take in as you read and explore it. So be sure to pay attention to the verses, themes, and moments that strike you. Verse 2 is a curious verse because it refers to something that hasn't happened yet. Skip ahead to chapter 12 to see what this is about and to see the important continuation of this story.

### Questions for Discussion & Reflection:

- What images or metaphors popped out at you in this passage? What don't you quite understand?
- How would you feel if you sent help to someone you believed could help you with something time sensitive, and they put it off for two days?
- Considering the way "day" and "night" and "light" and "dark" function in John, what is important about verse 9 and 10?
- Ever heard of "doubting Thomas?" Verse 16 is why. But can you blame him?
- Why do you think "dead in the tomb 4 days" matters?
- Why do you think Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life?"
- How do you understand verses 11:25-27?
- What seems to trigger Jesus emotions in this story?
- Do you see any connections in verses 38-44 to things Jesus said about The Good Shepherd and the sheep? (Think about things like names, voices, following, etc.)
- Do you believe people can be resurrected from the dead? How do you understand resurrection? Do you have doubts or questions about it? What are they?

