

**Ss. Martha, Mary and Lazarus**

July 29



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# Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Biblical figure

Jesus was friends with a family in Bethany: two sisters, named Martha and Mary, and their brother, Lazarus. Jesus would come to their home to rest and eat. One of these times, Martha busily prepared dinner for Jesus. She bustled about, checking and rechecking that the house was tidy and the food keeping warm. She wanted to impress all the guests!

Jesus arrived and she still was not ready. But where was her sister Mary? Surely, she should be helping her serve Jesus? Martha peeked into the room where Jesus was—and there was Mary, sitting at Jesus' feet! Martha was indignant. Why should she be doing all the work? Martha complained to Jesus, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."

Jesus raised His eyes toward Martha and said in a gentle voice, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her." Jesus' kind but firm words reminded Martha that nothing, not even a fine dinner, was more important than listening to Jesus Himself.

Sometime later, her dear brother, Lazarus, fell ill. Martha and Mary sent news to Jesus, asking Him to come. They were confident that Jesus would heal their brother, just as He had healed others.

But Jesus did not come. And Lazarus died.

Martha wept and wept. She did not understand why Jesus had not come to save Lazarus! Four days later, Martha heard that Jesus was on the road to visit them. She rushed out to meet Jesus and begged Him to explain why He had not come. Jesus told Martha, "Your brother will rise." Then He asked her if she believed that whoever had faith in Him would live.

Martha said from her heart, "Yes, Lord."

Martha and her sister took Jesus to Lazarus's tomb. But when Jesus commanded that they take away the stone covering the entrance, Martha protested. Lazarus had been dead for so long that his body would now smell. Still she did not understand what Jesus was about to do.

Jesus spoke again in His kind but firm voice, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" Trusting Him, they opened the tomb. Then Jesus called out, "Lazarus, come forth!" And Lazarus walked out alive from his tomb. Martha rejoiced to witness so great a miracle and knew that her faith in Jesus would always keep Him first in her heart. St. Martha, help me to know in my heart that nothing is more important than Jesus!