

Sermon-Based Bible Study
October 18, 2026

“Jesus Wept”

Text: John 11:1-45 (NIV)

Guest Speaker: Linda Reffert



1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. In the Gospel of John, the apostle describes Jesus' response when he learns that his close, longtime friend Lazarus has died. Other key elements of this story include:
 - Raising Lazarus from the dead was the last miracle Jesus performed before his own death and resurrection.
 - The text contains the Bible's shortest verse, "Jesus wept."
 - While this text is always timely in our faith journey, why might this story be particularly meaningful during Lent?
3. **Read John 11: 1-16 - The Death of Lazarus**

When Jesus receives the news of Lazarus' illness, he and the disciples have only recently returned from the region where Lazarus and his sisters live.

 - Although it may seem that Jesus hesitates in responding to the call to help Lazarus, what larger issues is he considering?
 - What indications do we observe that the disciples do not fully understand how Jesus is processing the news about Lazarus?
4. **Read John 11: 17-37 - Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus**

Jesus and the disciples return to Judea and the home of Lazarus and his sisters, and learn that Lazarus had been dead for four days.

 - How are Martha and Mary's responses to Jesus' arrival consistent with what we know of them from an earlier account of Jesus visiting their home (Luke 10:38-41)?
 - What factors prompted Jesus to weep when he saw the sorrow of those at Lazarus' tomb?
5. **Read John 11: 38-45 - Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead**

To the astonishment of those gathered at Lazarus' tomb, Jesus performs the extraordinary miracle of raising him from the dead.

 - What do you think the immediate and future implications were of Jesus performing this miracle?
 - How does Jesus' weeping before raising Lazarus remind us about what it meant for him to be both human and godly in that situation?
6. How can we pray for you?