

The Lord Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead
About 5 minutes, from John 11

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Martha

Mary

Voice (of Jesus)

Thomas

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Mary Martha, why hasn't Jesus come?

Prompter & Echoes It's an emergency!

Martha I don't know, Mary. We sent word to him days ago that our brother Lazarus was seriously ill.

Prompter & Echoes Why hasn't Jesus come to Bethany?

Thomas Meanwhile, we disciples of Jesus also wonder why he delays. Martha and her sister Mary had sent him word several days ago, that their brother Lazarus was dying. They are close friends, but Jesus has done nothing about it. Hear what he tells us.

Voice I love Lazarus and his sisters very much.
This sickness is not to end in death; it will glorify God.

Prompter & Echoes Jesus waits two days longer!

Voice I am going to Judea, to Bethany, to awaken Lazarus out of his sleep.

Thomas Lord, if he has fallen asleep, then he will recover.

Voice Lazarus is dead.

Prompter & Echoes Oh no!

Thomas Rabbi, Jewish leaders tried to stone you the last time you went to Judea. Are you going there again?

Voice I must go.

Thomas (*Groan*) Then let us go, too, and die with him!

Prompter & Echoes We will die with him!

Voice Come with me.

Thomas It's a long, sad journey to Bethany.
The closer we get, the more dread I feel.

Mary Martha, I'm surprised that so many Jews have come to console us after our brother Lazarus' death.

Martha Oh, Mary, look! Jesus is coming! I'm going out to meet him.

Prompter & Echoes See Martha run!

Martha Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Voice Martha, your brother will rise again.

Martha I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.

Voice He who believes in me will live even if he dies.
I am the resurrection and the life.

Prompter & Echoes Resurrection and life!

Martha Oh! Jesus sees Mary and the Jews weeping, and he is deeply troubled.

Voice Where have you laid Lazarus?

Martha In a tomb, Lord; it's a small cave. Come.

Thomas Look. Now Jesus is weeping!

Prompter & Echoes Weeping!

Voice Remove the stone.

Martha But Lord, by now there'll be a stench; he's been dead for four days.

Voice I told you, Martha, that if you believe, you will see the glory of God.
(*Shout loudly*) Lazarus, come forth!

Martha My brother comes forth bound hand and foot with wrappings!

Voice Unbind him.

Thomas Look! He's come back to life!

Prompter & Echoes He's alive!