

John 11:1-44
(Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58)
“The Resurrection and the Life”

Introduction

How can we possibly know what God is like? Only if he should choose to reveal himself to us. Jesus made claims in this regard that were utterly outrageous and contemptible, unless they were true. We have already heard him say, “I and the Father are one” (10:30). We will soon hear him say, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father... I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (14:6f). Because he found Jesus’ claims credible, and believed him to be God’s Son, John wrote in the prologue of this gospel, “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known” (1:18).

Jesus claimed that he had come to show us who God is and what God does, to show us God’s heart and God’s hand. And few texts show us more clearly or comfortingly how much God loves us and how determined he is to save us from everything that would separate us from his love.

Body

1. Jesus shows us God’s heart.

He shows us God’s joy: “Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad” (11:14).

He shows us God’s grief: “Jesus wept” (11:35).

2. Jesus shows us God’s hand.

He shows us his mission: “I am the resurrection and the life” (11:25).

He shows us his power: “Lazarus, come out” (11:43).

Conclusion

It is good for us to remember in this Easter season that sin and death do not have the final word. Christ has triumphed over sin and death, destroying their power over us and making death the door for his disciples to enter into everlasting life. Thus our God who weeps with us in our grief also delights in our death, for in Christ, nothing can separate us from his love, and all things bring him glory.

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