

# LIVING FAITH

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17, 2024



### THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY-- John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



### REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

The gospel of John does not have an account of the Agony in the Garden; however, the last part of this gospel reading serves essentially the same purpose as the Agony in the Garden does in the other gospels. Jesus comes to terms with the inevitability of his death; he chooses to do the Father's will. Jesus accepts his death on the cross for love of God – and for love of us.

"Now my soul is troubled," says Jesus; he has realized that "his hour" has come. And Jesus is emotional at the thought of his death. He is deeply shaken. We hear him struggling with how to respond to this realization. "Should I ask the Father to spare me? .... But the reason I have come is to share fully the lot of humanity, and to do so out of love. Loving solidarity will save humanity .... Okay Father, for love of you and love of all my sisters and brothers in the human family, I accept whatever lies ahead of me." Or as the other gospel-writers express it: "Father, not my will, but yours be done." Jesus trusts God beyond human reasoning.

Today, in the context of his imminent death, Jesus speaks of his being *lifted up* as his *exaltation*. In his resurrection, the crucified Christ will become the great sign of God's love for us.

Each of us will come to a moment when we realize, "My hour has come." We don't often think about that, never mind talk about it. Maybe we can begin to do that with the help of these questions:

### TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

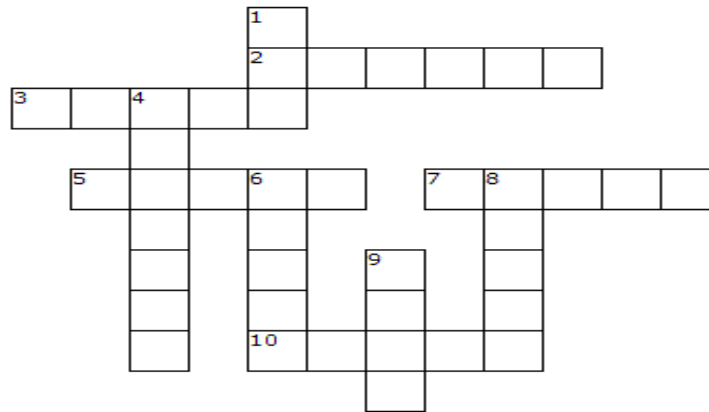


- We experience many losses before we die. What losses have you experienced? How have you "dealt" with them?
- Thinking about Jesus' life and ministry, what prepared him to accept his death?
- Can you see a place in yourself, in your life, where can (or already) do similar things?
- If these questions are too difficult, talk together about the image Jesus uses of the single grain falling into the earth.

# The Power of His Love

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:32 (NIV)

Based on John 12:28-33 (NIV)



## ACROSS

- 2. To be raised up
- 3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings
- 5. What we humans use to speak or sing
- 7. The Son of God
- 10. The end of life

## DOWN

- 1. Everyone and everything
- 4. To bring praise and honor to God
- 6. A large group of people
- 8. The land surface of the world
- 9. To attract someone or something

DEATH	ANGEL	VOICE	EARTH	JESUS
ALL	DRAW	GLORIFY	LIFTED	CROWD

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Solidarity Sunday - visit <https://devp.org/en/>



This Lent, please give generously. Today, Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Reaping our Rights campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity. Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world. "Development and Peace — Caritas Canada accompanies, supports and respects our institutional autonomy. It creates a climate of trust. I thank our sisters and brothers in Canada for their solidarity, a solidarity that generates life opportunities, that accompanies the dreams of women and men, of families, of communities and territories. Thank you!" — Eva Colque, Executive Director, Fundación NUNA, a partner in Bolivia. Help create hope and dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at [www.devp.org/give](http://www.devp.org/give). Thank you for your solidarity!

# SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

## CONTINUING TO EXPLORE THE SYNTHESIS REPORT

### LOOKING AT CHAPTER 7- CONVERGENCES

Let's continue walking together by taking a look at another part of the Synod Assembly's Synthesis Report. Today we are going through the "Convergences" part of chapter 7. "On the Road Towards Christian Unity"

An ecumenical prayer vigil inaugurated the Synodal Assembly. Baptism, which is at the root of the principle of synodality, also constitutes the foundation of ecumenism. Ecumenism encompasses spiritual renewal, repentance, and healing, fostering connections in daily life.



**Baptism**, which is at the root of the principle of **synodality**, also constitutes the foundation of **ecumenism**. Through it, all Christians participate in the **sensus fidei** and for this reason they should be listened to carefully, regardless of their tradition, as the Synodal Assembly did in its discernment process.



It is important that ecumenism is **practised** first and foremost **in daily life**. In theological and institutional dialogue, the **patient weaving** of **mutual understanding** continues in an atmosphere of growing **trust** and openness.

#### PART I – THE FACE OF THE SYNODAL CHURCH

##### 7. On the Road Towards Christian Unity



This session of the Synodal Assembly opened with a profound **ecumenical gesture**. The "**Together**" prayer vigil saw the presence of numerous other leaders and representatives of different Christian communions alongside Pope Francis, a clear and **credible sign** of the will to **walk together** in the spirit of unity of faith and **exchange of gifts**.



**Ecumenism** is first and foremost a matter of **spiritual renewal** that also requires processes for **repentance** and **healing of memory**. The assembly was moved to hear **testimonies** of Christians of different ecclesial traditions who share friendship, prayer and above all a commitment to the service of those experiencing poverty.



**Marriages** between Christians who belong to different Churches or ecclesial communities (**inter-church marriages**) may constitute realities in which the **wisdom of communion** can mature, and it is possible to **evangelize** each other.



# IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

## ST. PATRICK (MARCH 17) AND ST. JOSEPH (MARCH 19)



These images of the windows dedicated to St. Patrick and St. Joseph were taken by Robert and Lynn Young in 2019. Both windows are to be found in the Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John's, NL on the clerestory (upper) level: St. Patrick on the west and St. Joseph on the east. They were crafted by Louis Lichtenfeldt-Koch in Beauvais, France in the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. This captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped and found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family. But he heard God's call to return to Ireland, this time as a missionary. He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message. Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. He died March 17, 461.

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture, and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him.

We know he was a carpenter, a working man. We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. We know that he was a man of prayer and trust in God. We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?" (Luke 4:22)

