



## Lent reflection for Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

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John 11:12-16

The disciples said to Jesus, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin,\* said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

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Today's reflection is by Peter Saghir

We learn in John chapter 11 that Jesus loved Lazarus, that Lazarus became ill, and that Lazarus died. What's worse, we are told that Jesus takes his time in going to Lazarus. Why would he do that? Why wouldn't Jesus rush to him, to someone he loved? What does that mean for me? What can I expect from Jesus when I am in a crisis situation and stuck in my wilderness? Is Jesus going to let me sit in my pain? Why? Then I read: "For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe." Of course, Jesus had a reason for doing what he did. If Jesus had been there to save Lazarus and to prevent his death, it would have deprived the disciples of an opportunity to deepen their faith and trust in Him. The disciples would never have seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. They would not have been witness to the power of God.

Although the pandemic is technically over, I, like many of us, continue to deal with fallout in my personal life. It feels like it has been going on forever. I'm tired. But is this an opportunity for me to deepen my faith in God? Why does it need to involve so much pain and distress? Probably because I do not learn from things that come easy. Unfortunately, the truth for me is that I am brought closer to God through the trials. And it is through the trials that my faith in God is deepened. Usually, I would be dishonest not to acknowledge that I often shout: "Why me?! This is not how I pictured my life!" Oh, how I love to blame God and fault him for not rescuing me from

my pain and distress. As if that is God's purpose, to save me from my distress. I am perfectly imperfect, but I continue to try to listen to God and trust in his timing.

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Peter is a warden at Holy Apostles and serves on the Vestry. He lives in Windsor Terrace with his wife Alexandra and children Luke and Scarlett. Peter enjoys gardening, woodworking, and sketching in his free time.

