

Reflection on John 11:32-44

Jesus is moved to tears. In a display of his full humanity, Jesus grieves the loss of his friend, Lazarus. To make matters worse, in the middle of his grief, Jesus is flooded with questions, perhaps accusations, that he could have saved him. That has to hurt. Jesus proceeds, still deeply grieved, to resurrect Lazarus and in so doing renews the faith of Mary, Martha, and the other members of the crowd.

The passage is especially pertinent at the celebration of All Saints' not because it deals with death, but because it is a passage that epitomizes eternal life, the promise that God has made through Christ to each of us. Jesus says, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" The faith of Jesus' followers was rewarded in this miraculous event. We may never have seen anyone raised from the dead, but there are other ways that we experience the glory of God: a child's birth and baptism, the unconditional love of our families, friends, and neighbors, and most of all, through participation in the Eucharist.

When has God's glory been revealed to you? Was it a large "aha" moment or a still, small whisper in the night?

How is God's glory manifested in the remembrance of the lives of the saints? How do you know?