



Prayer Letter April 2026

„Then Jesus wept.“ John 11:35 (Basic Bible)

Jesus weeps. Deeply human, he is moved and overwhelmed by the sadness and weeping of his friends. His friend Lazarus, whom he loved very much, has died. He was not there in time to heal him. Mary even reproaches him: ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ (Verse 32) His spirit is ‘troubled and agitated’ (verse 33), he is shaken to the core. When he sees Mary weeping, his ‘eyes fill with tears’ (verse 35). But that's not all, there is a plan. Martha, the sister of the deceased, is quite horrified when Jesus insists on going to the tomb. After four days, she thinks it is not a good idea because of the decay. But Jesus does not let himself be deterred, and the stone in front of the tomb is rolled away. At that moment, Jesus knows that God has heard him, and he calls Lazarus back to life. Jesus, both human and divine, feels compassion.

We know what it means to suffer alongside others when loved ones are ill, going through something terrible or even dying. We suffer with their relatives and friends, and sometimes we cry with them too. Even as employees at the Haus Zuversicht hospice, we sometimes get teary-eyed when we accompany people we have cared for quite a while and have to say goodbye, for example at a funeral service. But at some point, we and the families have to return to our lives.

"I am the resurrection and the life! Whoever believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives and believes in me will never be separated from God." John 11:25-26

These verses should and can be a comfort. That it is not the end, that there is a plan for ‘afterwards’. Connected with God for eternity. That is my wish for us all.

Prayer

God, thank you that there are people who stand by us in difficult times. Be with us when things get tough, when sadness and pain seem to overwhelm us. Help us to be empathetic, to weep with others and to encourage them again. Thank you that you are there for us forever.

Amen

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