

# Matters of the Heart

Orthodox reflections on faith and life



## 33 Our Comforter is at Hand

Our Lord, upon arriving to Bethany to resurrect His beloved Lazarus, was greeted by the two sisters. Martha the first to receive the Lord asks why her Rabbi had not come sooner, and the response she receives is one of hope; a guarantee that her brother will rise again. No sooner had she finished her discourse with the Saviour than she summons her sister Mary to greet the Lord. And Mary's dialogue with Christ mirrors that of her sister's, with the exception of her outflow of tears. To which the Lord responded likewise, with a heavy heart, groaning and weeping.

See how the Lord comforts each sister according to the manner of her needs. For the one who desired comforting words was granted sweet and hopeful words from her Teacher. Whereas the one whose weeping could not be contained was matched with the Lord's own precious tears. In like manner, the Comforter meets us at our sorrows in order to impart upon us His unending peace.

+ 'Blessed be the God and  
 + Father of our Lord Jesus  
 + Christ, the Father of  
 + mercies and God of all  
 + comfort, who comforts us  
 + in all our tribulation...'  
 + 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

See Also:  
 John 11:1-45

+ *O King of peace,  
 + give us Your peace,  
 + grant us Your peace,  
 + and forgive us our sins.*