

Jesus Raises Lazarus

We are now in the first Sunday of Lent. For the past six weeks in the season of Epiphany, we have seen Jesus revealed through the testimony of John, conversations with a Pharisee and a Samaritan, and four miracles. The Gospel of John only describes seven miracles and calls them signs. Take a look:

- **Turning Water into Wine** (John 2:1–11): Jesus transforms water into high-quality wine at a wedding in Cana, demonstrating his power over nature.
- **Healing the Official's Son** (John 4:46–54): Jesus heals a royal official's son from a distance, showing that his word has power over illness and distance.
- **Healing the Paralytic at Bethesda** (John 5:1–15): Jesus heals a man who has been paralyzed for 38 years on the Sabbath, revealing himself as the "Lord of the Sabbath".
- **Feeding the 5,000** (John 6:1–14): Jesus multiplies a few loaves and fish to feed a massive crowd, demonstrating his ability to satisfy spiritual hunger.
- **Walking on Water** (John 6:16–21): Jesus walks on the Sea of Galilee, a sign demonstrating his authority over nature.

- **Healing the Man Born Blind** (John 9:1–41): Jesus gives sight to a man blind from birth, symbolizing himself as the "Light of the World"

Seven is a very significant number in Scripture. This week's reading is the seventh and final sign in John's Gospel: The raising of Lazarus. It is the ultimate sign, "ultimate" meaning "last," as well as ultimate meaning "best." Jesus saved the best for last.

Go back through these signs stories and ask yourself these questions:

What does this sign point to in Jesus' true identity?

What impact does this sign have on those receiving the miracle as well as those in the surrounding community?

Is there a part of the story where you have a new connection or appreciation for the ministry of Jesus?

***The Man Born Blind, John 11:1-44
Acton United Methodist Church
Sunday February 22, 2026
Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Stultz***