



Daily Prayer
+ Saturday, March 28, 2020 +

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare your praise.

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

C: Glory be to Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 44

L: Disaster has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant.

C: Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way.

L: Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!

C: Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?

L: For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground.

C: Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

[1] *On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!*

Reading**Mark 14:1-11**

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people." And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson

Our reading today teaches on truly listening to the Word of God and taking it to heart.

It is Tuesday of Holy Week and Jesus and his disciples have returned again in the evening to Bethany, two miles east of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives.

Bethany is home to Lazarus and Mary and Martha and it was here that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus and his disciples are having a meal where Lazarus is the guest of honor.

Martha is preparing the meal and Mary comes up to Jesus with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, made from pure nard, and anoints him by pouring it over his head as he reclines at the table. The Mary here is Mary the sister of Lazarus and Martha; not Mary Magdalene or Mary the mother of Jesus.

The disciples object to this act of love from Mary saying, *“Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this*

ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” (Mark 14:5-6)

This is the second time that Mary has been criticized in the Gospels. In Luke 10, Martha criticizes Mary, saying, *“Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.”* (Luke 10:40) And why was Mary criticized? For sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening carefully to his words while her sister was busy with the preparations for the meal.

In our reading from Mark 14, it is more of the same. Mary is criticized by the disciples, this time for paying close attention to the coming death of Christ while the disciples were distracted with concerns over the poor.

Mary is a guide for us during Lent. Like Mary, we are called to fix our eyes, not only on the things of the world, but also and especially on the Word of God and on Jesus and his cross. We are called to consider not only the things of daily life; but also and especially the eternal things of God.

Somehow Mary alone understood what would soon take place in Jerusalem. Somehow Mary alone knew the significance of the moment. The other disciples had heard the Passion predictions but they simply weren't listening closely. Then they were led astray by Judas as he directed them to concerns of money and the poor. Could it be that Mary alone had truly been listening?

And so, Jesus defends Mary. *“Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”* (Mark 14:6-9)

Mary is our example today. From Mary we learn to pay close attention to God's Word and to the Passion of Christ. We learn to take these things to heart. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us

our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Collect

L: Lord Jesus Christ, your body was anointed with oil by Mary to prepare for your burial. Fix our eyes on your cross and Passion that we might know the fullness of your salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

Hymn

583

[1] God has spoken by His prophets,
Spoken His unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil,
One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, His throne eternal;
God the first, and God the last.

[2] God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word Incarnate,
God of God, before time was;
Light of Light, to earth descending,
He reveals our God to us.

[3] God is speaking by His Spirit,
Speaking to our hearts again,
In the ageless Word declaring
His own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast;
God abides, His Word unchanging;
God the first, and God the last.