

MIDWEEK OF LENT 1

MARY, THE SISTER OF LAZARUS AND MARTHA

AS WE GATHER

Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, was a witness to Christ as recorded in John's Gospel. As Jesus and many others are gathered for dinner, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with an ointment that was worth a year's wages. What a generous act! Mary's generosity is contrasted with Judas's greed. Judas criticizes Mary's generosity toward Jesus, saying that the ointment could have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. But John notes something important: Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor. Judas kept the moneybag for the disciples and had been continually stealing from it. While Mary is generous toward Jesus, Judas seeks his own advantage. We remember Mary's generosity and love, which point us to Jesus.

HYMN

"Christ, the Life of All the Living" (*LSB* 420)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** As we continue our Lenten journey, we see the contrast between Mary and Judas,
- C** **the contrast between generosity and greed,**
- P** the contrast between giving and getting,
- C** **the contrast between joy and jealousy.**
- P** Mary points us to the joys of giving.
- C** **Mary points us to the joys of Jesus.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** While we would like to think of ourselves as generous, joyful, and giving, we admit that our lives do not live up to the perfect standard God expects. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confessing our shortcomings and sins.
- C** **Heavenly Father, we confess that we have committed sins of greed, jealousy, and selfishness. We have sinned against You in thoughts, words, and actions. Have mercy on us, Lord. Forgive us, renew our generosity, and lead us out of greedy selfishness. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation.**
- P** Almighty God, in His generous mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you. On account of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, God has forgiven us all. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the

name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. We are generously forgiven and joyfully restored.

PSALM

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

C Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

P Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

C Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

P The Old Testament Reading is from Proverbs, the eleventh chapter.

²⁴One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;

another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

²⁵Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,

and one who waters will himself be watered.

²⁶The people curse him who holds back grain,

but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

²⁷Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor,

but evil comes to him who searches for it.

²⁸Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the ninth chapter.

⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you

may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor;

His righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

²So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at the table.

³Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His

feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, ⁵“Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. ⁸The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me.”

⁹When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (*LSB* 791)

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father” (*LSB* 725)

KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

P Lord, have mercy.

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.**

PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your death on the cross, You forgive the sins of all people. Help us to have compassion on others and reflect Your generous love to them, for all

people are created in Your image. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord, give us the strength to forgive others as You have forgiven us. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord, embolden us to be generous with all the good gifts You have given us. Prevent us from any greed or dishonesty that would harm others and be a poor reflection upon You. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord, instill in us a love for the poor that is not rooted in our superiority over them or in some vain hope of making ourselves feel better. Rather, teach us how to love in true humility and service. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord, we pray for the leaders of this nation and of all the nations throughout the world, that Your wisdom would be upon them for the health and welfare of all people. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord, we pray for all Christians throughout the world. As we all follow You on whatever

journeys You send us, remind us that we are united with You and with all who follow You by Baptism into Your death and resurrection. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord, be near to all those who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Give them Your healing and patience. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P Lord, send comfort and hope to all those who grieve, [*especially . . .*]. Grant that the power of Your resurrection to eternal life shines through the darkness of grief. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C **blessèd Jesus, King of grace.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father,
the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and
preserve you.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Abide with Me” (*LSB* 878 vs.1,6)