

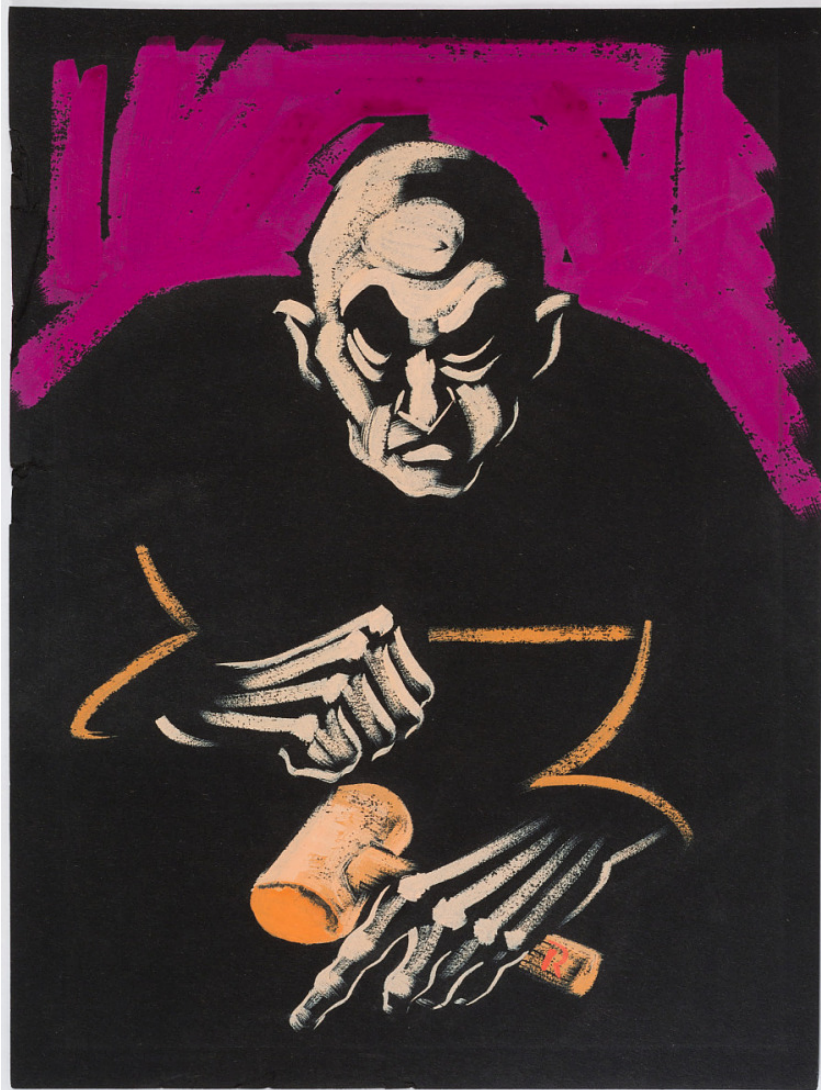


## Words for the Way

An online Lent Course for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

---

### Judge Monday 3 April



*Judge by John Resko (Gouache on paper, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, The Joseph H. Hirshhorn Bequest, 1981)*

#### **John 12:1-11**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to

see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

What does it mean to judge? In today's Gospel reading Judas judges Mary anointing Jesus' feet with a perfume made out of pure nard, an aromatic herb, a perfume that according to Mark's Gospel would have cost over a year's wages. Judas judged Mary and later this week we will see, read and hear of Jesus' interactions with Judas, knowing what Judas had done. Who do you make judgements about in your life? Those you know personally and those you hear about or read about in conversation or in the news? What might be at work in your heart as you consider what you judge this Holy Week?

### ***The Collect for Monday of Holy Week***

Almighty God, whose Son was crucified yet entered into glory, may we, walking in the way of the cross, find it to be for us the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### ***Sonnet written in Holy Week at Genoa, by Oscar Wilde***

I wandered in Scoglietto's green retreat,  
The oranges on each o'erhanging spray  
Burned as bright lamps of gold to shame the day;  
Some startled bird with fluttering wings and fleet  
Made snow of all the blossoms, at my feet  
Like silver moons the pale narcissi lay:  
And the curved waves that streaked the sapphire bay  
Laughed i' the sun, and life seemed very sweet.  
Outside the young boy-priest passed singing clear,  
"Jesus the Son of Mary has been slain,  
O come and fill his sepulchre with flowers."  
Ah, God! Ah, God! those dear Hellenic hours  
Had drowned all memory of Thy bitter pain,  
The Cross, the Crown, the Soldiers, and the Spear.

### ***To Listen***

*Jar & A Bag* by Pete Crockett from Holy Week Liturgy (based on the Matthew 26 version of the John 12 reading).

*I Will Offer Up My Life (Thankful Heart)* by Matt Redman

These and other music mentioned in these reflections can be found in a playlist at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/72omFXFljUHKiHcvk9OYv4?si=c33294da79674b98>



Image <https://pixy.org/4226001/>, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

The word for each day is taken from Trevor Hudson's *40 words for 40 days Pauses for Lent*.