



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney's Lent Course 2024

# THE WAY TO THE CROSS

MONDAY 25 MARCH



## *Monday of Holy Week*

*Isaiah 42.1-9, Psalm 36.5-11, Hebrews 9.11-15, John 12.1-11*

### **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.

### 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.

## Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel Jesus is eating with Lazurus (who he raised from the dead), Mary and Martha. In an act of devotion Mary anoints Jesus feet with very expensive perfume. This honours who Jesus is, but also points to his death and the anointing of the dead and links to the gifts of the Magi to the infant Jesus. It appears that of all those Mary might be the only one who understands who Jesus really is and what is about to happen.

There is dispute by those present about the best use of the expensive perfume, should it be used in an act of devotion or sold and the proceeds used for to benefit the poor? Different reasons for this attitude are explored in the different disciples, including Judas.

What do you think was the best use for the perfume?

How would you have reacted if you were present?

***Why This Waste?*** by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

The oil is poured

The criticism comes

even while the scent is still thick in the air

Why this waste?

Why worship?

Why take the time?

Why spend the money?

The poor, remember the poor

There's so much work to be done

Yes beloved, remember

Remember the poor and remember her

The way is And not Or

Worship and Work

Loving God and Loving Neighbor

Looking Up and Looking Out For

The cross-shaped life

The work doesn't work without the worship

The worship's unfinished without the work

## Music for Holy Monday

- *Memento homo quod cinis est* by William Byrd. This contains the text *Memento homo, quod cinis es, et in cinerem reverteris* which translates to: Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return.
- J.S.Bach's St Matthew Passion has three movements that reflect on Jesus' anointing with precious ointment: *St Matthew Passion BWV244: Pt 1. 4 Da versammleten sich die Hohenpriester, 5 Du lieber Heiland du* and *6, Buß und Reu*
- A hymn relevant to today's readings is *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* by James Montgomery.

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.

*John 12.3*

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## Usual Weekly Pattern

Sunday

RCL Eucharist

Readings and Collect

Monday

Delving Deeper into

the Readings

Tuesday

Words from Others

(sacred & secular)

Wednesday

Resources from the

Arts

Thursday

Contemplative Acts

Friday

Personal Reflection

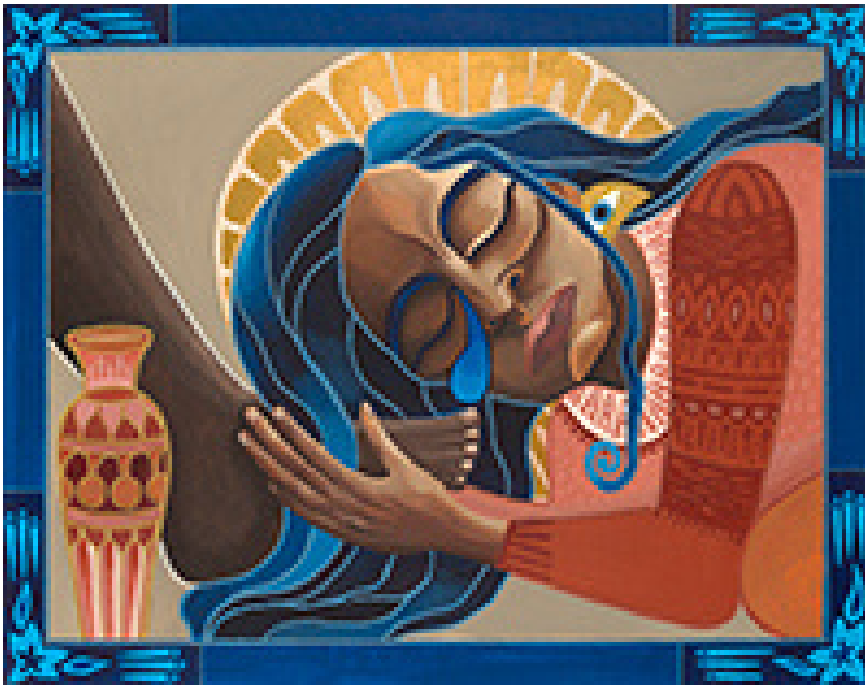
- what this means to

me

Saturday

Acts & Deeds





Pittman, Lauren Wright. Anointed, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [retrieved March 10, 2024]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

### *The Anointing at Bethany by Malcolm Guite*

Come close with Mary, Martha , Lazarus  
So close the candles stir with their soft breath  
And kindle heart and soul to flame within us  
Lit by these mysteries of life and death.  
For beauty now begins the final movement  
In quietness and intimate encounter  
The alabaster jar of precious ointment  
Is broken open for the world's true lover,

The whole room richly fills to feast the senses  
With all the yearning such a fragrance brings,  
The heart is mourning but the spirit dances,  
Here at the very centre of all things,  
Here at the meeting place of love and loss  
We all foresee, and see beyond the cross.

With you is  
the well of  
life,  
and in your  
light we see  
light.

*Refrain for  
Psalm 36.5-11*

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