



Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE
DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42.1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

COLLECT

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.



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Psalms 36.5-11

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O Lord.
7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your
wings.
8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.
9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.
10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who
know you, *
and your favour to those who are true of heart.
11 Let not the foot of the proud come near me, *
nor the hand of the wicked push me aside.

Hebrews 9.11-15

When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

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

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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
(SCOTTISH PRAYER
BOOK)

ALMIGHTY and
Everlasting God, who,
of thy tender love
towards mankind, hast
sent thy Son our
Saviour Jesus Christ,
to take upon him our
flesh, and to suffer
death upon the cross,
that all mankind
should follow the
example of his great
humility: Mercifully
grant that we may
both follow the
example of his
patience, and also be
made partakers of his
resurrection; through
the same Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.



Ilyas Basim Khuri Bazzi Rahib, Mary Anoints Christ's Feet, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore MD

*God of love,
as in Jesus Christ
you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves
to you, living according
to your holy will.
Keep our feet firmly in
the way where Christ
leads us; make our
mouths speak the truth
that Christ teaches us;
fill our bodies with
the life that is Christ
within us.
In his holy name we pray.
Amen.*

(Church of Ireland)

In today's Gospel Jesus is eating with Lazarus (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?

***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.

To Listen:

A Prophet Woman by Altars + Ashes
Alabaster Heart by Kalley Heiligenthal and Benjamin Hastings

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xA1xzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1>