

MIDWEEK OF LENT 1

MARY, THE SISTER OF LAZARUS AND MARTHA

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.

Opening Sentences:

P O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**All: 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

Psalm 73

P: Truly God is good to Israel,

C: to those who are pure in heart.

P: Nevertheless, I am continually with You;

C: You hold my | right hand.

P: You guide me with Your counsel,

C: and afterward You will receive me to glory.

P: Whom have I in | heaven but You?

C: And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.

P: My flesh and my | heart may fail,

C: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

P: For behold, those who are far from You shall | perish;

C: You put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to You.

P: But for me it is good to be | near God;

C: I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works.

All: 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.

P: Truly God is good to Israel,

C: to those who are pure in heart.

Silence for reflection

Psalm Prayer:

P: O God, You are the strength of Your people and You know those whose hearts are pure and who trust in You above all things. Deliver us from the deceptions of this world and the lies of the enemy that we may follow You and listen to the sound of Your voice speaking salvation through Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn: “*My Song Is Love Unknown*” - **Hymn #430**

First Reading: Proverbs 11:24–28

P: A reading from Proverbs, the eleventh chapter.

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it. Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it. Whoever 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.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6–12

P: A reading from Second Corinthians, the ninth chapter.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he

has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And 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. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” He 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. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For 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.

Third Reading: John 12:1-11

P: A reading from St. John, the twelfth chapter.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at the table. Mary 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. But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” He 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. Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me.”

When 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. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Responses

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Sermon Hymn: *“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”* - **Hymn #423**

Sermon: *“Mary, the Sister of Lazarus and Martha”* - **John 12**

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Song of Mary: *“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”* - **Hymn # 934**

Kyrie: (Lord, Have Mercy)

ALL: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

The Lord’s Prayer

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: And let my cry come to You.

P: O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Grant to us grace, O Lord, that we may not withhold any devotion from Your Son but offer Him the praise He is due and the loving service He has so generously shown to us, that rejoicing in His forgiveness and life, we may show forth this gift to others in His name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Blessed Lord, we remember before You all those in need of body and soul and pray You to deliver them from their afflictions according to Your will, [*especially . . .*]. Sustain them in the hour of trial and strengthen their faith with patience that they not lose heart; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Blessing:

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: “*Where Charity and Love Prevail*” - **Hymn #845**