

## WOMEN OF LENT (Lent 2- March 9, 2023)

Recognizing God: Abigail and the Woman Who Anointed Jesus

P; The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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

P: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

**C: And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.**

P: For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**C: Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”** (Hebrews 12:1-3)

P: “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

**C: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** (Hebrews 13:7-8)

**Abigail:** 1 Samuel 25:1-3, 10-19, 32-34

P: Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Paran. A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. His name was Nabal and his wife’s name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings—he was a Calebite.

Nabal answered David’s servants, “Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?”

David’s men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. David said to his men, “Each of you strap on your sword!” So they did, and David strapped his on as well. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. <sup>1</sup>Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him.”

Abigail acted quickly. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, “Go on ahead; I’ll follow you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal. David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Woman Who Anointed Jesus: Luke 7:36-39, 44-50**

P: When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, Jesus went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” Then Jesus turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give Me any water for My feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give Me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing My feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on My feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** *“Recognizing God: Abigail and the Woman Who Anointed Jesus”*

**Message Hymn:** *“For All the Faithful Women”* **Hymn #855 vs. 1, screen, screen, 3,4**

Screen verses:

For Abigail who gave aid  
To renegade David  
She recognized his calling  
Whom God had chosen king.  
She kept David from violence  
Which he had sworn to do  
And saved him from great evil  
Through her God’s grace to bring.

For the known sinful woman  
Who washed Christ Jesus' feet  
And dried them with her own hair  
And poured on oil so sweet  
She recognized Jesus as Christ  
Showing her faith in Him.  
Jesus accepted her gift  
And made her right with Him.

**Hymn of Reflection:** *"You Are the Way, through You Alone"*- **Hymn #526**

**Passion story reading from St. Matthew – Matthew 26:47-67**

While He (Jesus) was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize Him." And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed Him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

Then those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following Him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?" But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard His blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in His face and struck Him. And some slapped Him, saying, "Prophecy to us, You Christ! Who is it that struck You?"

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

### **Responses on Recognizing God:**

P: "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:1)

**C: "Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. (Psalm 100:3)**

P: "Commit your works to the LORD, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

**C: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)**

P: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

**C: "And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God." (Luke 12:8)**

P: Give us the faith of Rahab in pagan Jericho who said, "We have heard what the LORD did for you by drying up the Red Sea when you left Egypt."

**C: Give us healing so that we can say with Naaman the Syrian general whom You healed from leprosy, "Now I know that there is no God except the one in Israel."**

P: Help us to be like the Samaritan woman that You met at the well who asked, "Could this be the Messiah?"

**C: Direct us to cry out to You as blind Bartimaeus did, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"**

P: Fill us as you did Cornelius when You came and told him, "Your prayers and offerings to the poor have ascended as a memorial before God."

**C: Help us daily to ask with the Philippian jailer, "What must I do to be saved?" and hear that You have done it all for us.**

**Prayers:**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

P: Christ Jesus help us to recognize the ways which You come to us each both in the reassurance we can gain from other Christians, and the needs we see in other people knowing that whatever we do to others, we do to You. We pray this is Your name,

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing: (pastor)**

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: "Hear us, Father, When We Pray" - Hymn #773**