



February 20, 2025
The Women of Easter

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought treats!

Bible Study Business

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Hymns – Lisa Schlotterbeck

- ELW 638 *Blessed Assurance*
- ELW 333 *Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land*
- ELW 714 *O God of Mercy, God of Light*

Scripture

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

John 11:1-15

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the

Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world."¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Discussion: *A Season of Grace (Intro) & Chapter 1 Lost in His Love*

1. In the introduction to the book the author tells of a young girl who is full of enthusiasm at the prospect of coming to church to see Jesus. Have you had a time when that sense of connection with Jesus filled you with hope and joy? Please tell us about it!
2. Imagine what it would be like to sit at the feet of Jesus as he preached and taught. As our author describes Mary sitting at the Lord's feet she asks the question, "What was Mary listening to?" (p. 8). Imagine yourself in Mary's place.
 - a. What do you think Jesus was talking about that day?
 - b. What would it have been like to be there?
 - c. What did it mean to Mary to have this young Rabbi welcome her to be among his disciples, listening and learning from him?
3. Mary's soaking up Jesus' teachings is contrasted with Martha's frustration over her sister's lack of attention to hosting duties. "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?" (Luke 10:40).
 - a. Can you empathize with Martha's concern?
 - b. How do you relate to Jesus' response, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41-42) – pp, 10-11.
4. The author writes, "For those who believe in the name of Jesus, there's 'only one thing that is essential'. Rather than fancy meals or tidy rooms, what matters most is Jesus himself. 'Martha thought Christ had need of her and of her services, but Mary knew that it was she that needed Christ'" (p. 11).
 - a. How does this response resonate with you?
5. In recent weeks we have seen wildfires devastate Los Angeles. People fled beautiful homes only to return to piles of ash. Our author writes, "Physical things can be snatched from our hands but not His mercy, His grace, His wisdom. They are sealed within us by the Holy Spirit... Mary understood what mattered most" (p. 12).
 - a. What does this ancient story of two women have to teach us today in our lives and faith?
6. The story of the raising of Lazarus is the reason for this dinner party with Jesus. They were thanking Jesus for the miracle of raising Lazarus. But Jesus had intentionally delayed coming when Lazarus' sisters sent for him. As painful as it must have been for Mary and Martha to watch their brother die, how much more difficult was it to know that Jesus had the power to heal him, yet he stayed away until after Lazarus had died?

- a. When have you felt upset that God didn't respond to your prayers at the time you desperately needed him to?
 - b. In John 11:4 Jesus said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (p. 14). What trials have you withstood that tested your faith? In what way did you sense God's purpose in it?
 - c. Is it comforting to know that when God's answers to our prayers seem slow, God knows what's going on and there is purpose in God's timing and response?
7. Our author writes, "Jesus stated clearly His intended purpose: He wanted His disciples 'to trust and rely' on Him" (p. 18). How does the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead connect with your trust and reliance in God?
 8. Describing Mary, we read, "If we learn from her, 'if we become women who seek the one 'needful' thing, we will see our lives transformed" (p. 12). In the Introduction, the author refers to Lent as a season of transformation, renewal and grace (p. 2). What might you do during this Lenten season to put yourself into a place to be transformed and renewed by God's grace?

Birthdays

Lord's Prayer

Upcoming Schedule

Date	Pages	Topic
2/27	21-42	Women of Easter 2 – Mary Went to Meet the Lord
3/6	43-66	Women of Easter 3 – I Still Would Choose the Better Part
3/13	67-86	Women of Easter 4 – With Palms Before Thee
3/20	87-114	Women of Easter 5 – O Most Afflicted!
3/27	115-142	Women of Easter 6 – Thorns Thine Only Crown
4/3	143-166	Women of Easter 7 – At the Cross Her Station Keeping
4/10	167-194	Women of Easter 8 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives
4/17		Holy Week – No Bible Study
4/25		Pastor Marla on vacation – Guest leader TBD
5/1	10-12	Assemblies of God (Pentecostal)
5/8	114-116	Salvation Army
5/15	76-81	Judaism
5/22		Pre-Memorial Day Weekend – No Bible Study
5/29	67-71	Islam
		New Topic for the Summer – To be chosen