



March 20, 2025

The Women of Easter

Chapter 5 – *O Most Afflicted!*

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought treats!

Bible Study Business

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Hymns – Lisa Schlotterbeck

- ELW 347 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*
- ELW 349 *Ah, Holy Jesus*
- ELW 708 *Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love*

Scripture and Discussion

1. Our author points out that Jesus spent much of his last week teaching (p. 90).
 - a. Does that surprise you, given all that was facing him? Why or why not?

Luke 20:1-8 – The Authority of Jesus Questioned (pp. 91-92)

One day, as he was teaching the people in the temple and telling the good news, the chief priests and the scribes came with the elders ²and said to him, “Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?” ³He answered them, “I will also ask you a question, and you tell me: ⁴Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” ⁵They discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ ⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us; for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” ⁷So they answered that they did not know where it came from. ⁸Then Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

2. What “things” (vs 2) has Jesus been doing that upset the religious leaders?
 - a. Why did these things worry them?
3. What interests were they trying to protect from Jesus’ probing questions? (p. 91)
4. Why did Jesus evade their questions?
5. What people, things or events lead you to recognize Jesus’ authority?

Luke 21:1-4 The Widow's Offering (pp. 92-94)

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; ²he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; ⁴for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

6. When you hear the story of the widow with the two copper coins, do you identify more with the wealthy people who gave relatively little or with the widow who gave all that she had? How so?
7. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul writes, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
 - a. Why do you think giving cheerfully matters to God?
 - b. What cheerfulness do you find in the widow's sacrifice?
 - c. What connections do you find between the way the widow gave and the way Jesus was about to give?

Luke 22:1-13 Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus and The Last Supper (pp. 94-99)

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." ⁹They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰"Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

8. What prompted Judas to betray Jesus? (pp. 94-95)
 - a. Was the money he was offered enough of an incentive or were there other motivations? If so, what?
 - b. How do you understand verse 3 "Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot"?
9. As Jesus instructs the disciples to prepare the seder feast they find everything in place as Jesus instructs. Our author comments, "Such obedience. Jesus told them what to do, and they did it. they didn't complain, ask a dozen questions, or whine about having to make dinner" (p. 98).
 - a. Does it surprise you that they didn't ask more questions?
 - b. How would you have responded?
 - c. What role do you think the women may have had with the Passover preparations and/or celebration?

John 13:3-10 Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet (pp. 99-102)

³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."

10. Have you ever participated in a foot washing ceremony?

- a. What was that experience like for you?
- b. What do you think this experience was like for the disciples? For Jesus?
- c. How does that ancient foot washing shape our faith today?

Matthew 26:20-56 The Lord's Supper, Gethsemane, and Jesus' Arrest (pp. 102-113)

²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." ³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." ³³Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." ³⁴Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is

weak.”⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.”⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.⁵¹ Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?”⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

11. What impresses you most about Jesus at the Last Supper?
12. How do you think Jesus felt during the Last Supper?
 - a. Why was it important to Jesus to have this supper with his disciples?
13. Why is the Lord’s Supper important to believers?
 - a. When did Holy Communion feel most personal for you?
14. When have you felt betrayed?
 - a. How did you deal with it?
15. What does Jesus’ response to Judas, the crowd, and the disciples show about the type of Messiah he is?
16. Why did the disciples desert Jesus?
 - a. How do you think you might have reacted if you had been with Jesus at the time of his arrest?
17. As you think about your own Gethsemane times, when you have wrestled with God, how does Jesus’ example speak to you?
 - a. What can we learn from Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane, to inform our own prayer lives?

Birthdays

Prayer: This is Love

This is love.

Not that you spoke words of comfort,
walked with the unclean and unloved,
shared wisdom, bread and wine,
brought healing into lives
and challenged the status quo.

This is love.

That you spoke the word of God,
walked a painful road to the Cross,
shared living water, bread of life,
brought Salvation to the world
and died for the sake of all.

This is love.

It is a seed
sown in the ground,
which germinates,
blossoms,
and spreads its sweet perfume.

Lord's Prayer**Upcoming Schedule**

Date	Pages	Topic
3/27	115-142	<i>Women of Easter 6 – Thorns Thine Only Crown</i>
4/3	143-166	<i>Women of Easter 7 – At the Cross Her Station Keeping</i>
4/10	167-194	<i>Women of Easter 8 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives</i>
4/17		Holy Week – No Bible Study
4/24		Pastor Marla on vacation Pastor Elaine to lead Bible Study on the topic of Prayer
		During May continue with <i>Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith</i>
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