



March 6, 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 419 *For all the Faithful Women* 1, 7, 2, Last
- ELW 808 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*
- ELW 818 *O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

Scripture - John 11:45 – 12:11

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." ⁵¹He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. ⁵³So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

⁵⁴Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews, but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness; and he remained there with the disciples. ⁵⁵Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?" ⁵⁷Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who knew where Jesus was should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at

the table with him. ³Mary 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. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(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.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹When 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. ¹⁰So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

Mark 14:1-11

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Our Author – Liz Curtis Higgs on video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yim9NCI7Svk>

Discussion

1. Have you ever been an eyewitness to an event for which multiple people shared their version of what happened?
 - a. Were all of the accounts the same?
 - b. As we read these two stories of women anointing Jesus with costly perfume shortly before his crucifixion, what details are similar and what are different?
 - c. Do you think this is one anointing told from differing perspectives or two separate events?
 - d. (Note, there is another story of a woman anointing Jesus' feet in Luke 7:36-50 – she is identified as "a woman in the city, who was a sinner." This story is quite different.)
2. Does it seem strange to read that Jesus was no longer walking openly among the people, but rather keeping a low profile?
 - a. Our author writes, "Jesus was neither afraid of them nor avoiding them. He was simply acting according to his Father's will" (p. 46). How does knowing that Jesus waited for God's timing make you feel about times of waiting in your life?

3. We often hear about the 12 disciples traveling with Jesus on his ministry. It is easy to think of a group of men traveling with Jesus, but our author points out that women were among those who regularly traveled with Jesus “helping support them out of their own means” (p. 46).
 - a. What do you think it would have been like to be one of the women traveling with Jesus?
4. We may underestimate the impact that raising Lazarus from the dead had on Jesus and his disciples in that time between the raising of Lazarus and Jesus’ crucifixion.
 - a. What connections are there between these two events? (pp. 48-49).
5. Think of a time when someone did something very special for you, unexpected, unselfish, pure gift.
 - a. How does that help you relate to Mary’s gift of anointing Jesus’ feet? (pp. 52-56).
6. Our author writes, “Mary laid her whole being before Him: her pride, her reputation, her social standing, her clean hands, her pure heart. She asked nothing of Him, sought no sign of approval, begged for no favors. Confident of his love and acceptance, she simply gave, expecting nothing in return... this was “the most lavish, extravagant act of love ever shown to Jesus while he lived on earth”” (pp. 55-56).
 - a. How did Jesus respond to this amazing gift?
 - b. How did others respond?
 - c. How might this have helped Jesus prepare for what lie ahead for him?
7. Did those who advocated for using such costly perfume to help the poor rather than lavishing it on Jesus, have a point?
 - a. How might you have chimed in to this discussion?
8. Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her” Mark 14:9 (p. 65). As we read this story again today, we see that Jesus was right.
 - a. What do you think Jesus wanted us to know about Mary and her loving act of devotion?
9. How could you unselfishly express your love and devotion to Jesus?

Birthdays

Lord’s Prayer

Upcoming Schedule

Date	Pages	Topic
3/13	67-86	<i>Women of Easter 4 – With Palms Before Thee</i>
3/20	87-114	<i>Women of Easter 5 – O Most Afflicted!</i>
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

