

APRIL 6, 2025
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



Mary shows extravagant love for Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany
Monday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord will prepare the way
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	Running toward the goal
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	How to treat the poor
Thursday	2 Corinthians 2:14-17	We are the aroma of Christ
Friday	Isaiah 43:1-7	God promises restoration
Saturday	Psalms 126	A harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 19:28-40	Blessed is the king who comes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Mary 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. John 12:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, through Christ you touch us with lavish love and care. Help us to respond with reverence and joy for all that you do for us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of the harvest, we thank you for filling our bodies with food and our hearts with joy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to be rich in love.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Restore in Us, O God



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you show your care and affection for someone else?
- How do you experience God's extravagant love?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 12:1-8.

All four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) mention the anointing of Jesus' feet by a woman. Only John names the woman as Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. It is another way John emphasizes the love relationship between Jesus and his disciples. Just as Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her hair, Jesus would wipe the disciples' feet with a towel (John 13:5). Both acts are meant as a sign of extravagant love. Even though Jesus' disciples will soon betray, deny, or abandon him before his crucifixion, his final entry into Jerusalem is preceded by this act of love. All real and intimate relationships experience difficulties. Following Jesus will be no different. What we see and remember with Mary's anointing, is that at the heart of our relationship to Jesus is a love that will not end.

Discuss: How do you express your love for Jesus?

Pray: Lord Jesus, you gave everything you had to love us and save us from our sins; free us to show our love for you and our care for the world you love. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show love and support for someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. During this Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This fifth week in Lent we reflect on "And do not bring us to the time of trial" (v. 4b). Add this verse to verses 2a, 2b, 3, and 4a from the first, second, third, and fourth weeks in Lent by writing it around the outside of the cross drawn on the paper the first week. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org