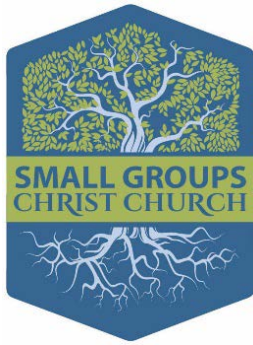


CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

The Fifth Sunday in Lent – The Week beginning April 6, 2025



Read John 12:1-8:

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 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. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (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.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Background:

Jesus is the guest at the home of his friends Martha and Mary and their brother Lazarus. The family lives in the town of Bethany, about six miles from Jerusalem. Martha serves a meal and afterward, Mary washes Jesus' feet with her hair. Jesus is not far from Jerusalem, not far from the Upper Room where he will celebrate the Passover with his friends, and not far from death.

Talking Points:

- Mary shows her love for Jesus by wiping his feet with costly nard. What are other ways we show costly love for Jesus?
- Martha welcomes Jesus and the disciples into her home and serves them dinner. How do you show hospitality to others?
- Why do you think Lazarus says nothing? What could his role be in the sisters' lives?
- Why is Judas chastised by Jesus? What do you think of Jesus' statement, "You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me"?
- How can we learn to love Jesus with the extravagance of Mary?

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Savior's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.