

## ***Questions for Reflection***

John 12:1-8 draws our attention to three people: Mary, Judas, and Jesus. It is easy enough to identify Mary as “the good disciple” and Judas as “the bad disciple” not only in this story but also in the larger story of Jesus’ life and death. We can (and do) make this judgment: Mary is accepted and affirmed, while Judas is rejected. But is this the judgment that the other person in the story would make? As one commentator puts it, “. . . if Jesus came to save the lost, surely there is no one in the gospel story who is more lost than the one who betrays Jesus. . . . If the Good Shepherd can and does go to any length to save a lost sheep, is Judas beyond the saving grasp of the Good Shepherd?” This is not a question with an easy answer. As this story ushers you into Holy Week, consider how the cross, the grace of Christ, speaks to this story and to your own life story, which like most life stories may not be a simple “either/or” example of faithfulness, but a “both/and” mix of faithfulness and unfaithfulness.

## ***For Your Study and Reflection This Week*** **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

### ***Isaiah 43:16-21***

Do not remember the former things  
or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? (vv. 18-19a)

### ***Psalms 126***

May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves. (vv. 5-6)

### ***Philippians 3:4b-14***

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. (vv. 7-9)

### ***John 12:1-8***

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.” (vv. 7-8)

## TWO-YEAR DAILY LECTIONARY

Year 1

*Week of 5 Lent*

### Sunday, April 6, 2025

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Psalm 118 (*morning*)

Jer. 23:16-32

1 Cor. 9:19-27

Mark 8:31—9:1

Psalm 145 (*evening*)

### Monday, April 7, 2025

Psalm 31 (*morning*)

Jer. 24:1-10

Rom. 9:19-33

John 9:1-17

Psalm 35 (*evening*)

### Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Psalms [120], 121, 122, 123 (*morning*)

Jer. 25:8-17

Rom. 10:1-13

John 9:18-41

Psalms 124, 125, 126, [127] (*evening*)

### Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Psalm 119:145-176 (*morning*)

Jer. 25:30-38

Rom. 10:14-21

John 10:1-18

Psalms 128, 129, 130 (*evening*)

### Thursday, April 10, 2025

Psalms 131, 132, [133] (*morning*)

Jer. 26:1-16

Rom. 11:1-12

John 10:19-42

Psalms 140, 142 (*evening*)

### Friday, April 11, 2025

Psalms 95 & 22 (*morning*)

Jer. 29:1, 4-13

Rom. 11:13-24

John 11:1-27, or 12:1-10

Psalms 141, 143:1-11 (12) (*evening*)

### Saturday, April 12, 2025

Psalms 137:1-6 (7-9), 144 (*morning*)

Jer. 31:27-34

Rom. 11:25-36

John 11:28-44, or 12:37-50

Psalms 42, 43 (*evening*)

### Sunday, April 13, 2025

*Palm Sunday*

Psalms 24, 29 (*morning*)

Zech. 9:9-12 (*morning*)

1 Tim. 6:12-16 (*morning*)

Zech. 12:9-11, 13:1, 7-9 (*evening*)

Matt. 21:12-17 (*evening*)

Psalm 103 (*evening*)

## *Household Prayer: Morning*

Merciful God, as I begin this day,  
place in me a spirit of generosity  
so that I may freely share love, joy, and encouragement  
with those I encounter.  
Keep me from quick judgments  
so that I leave room for your grace  
in my life and in the lives of others.  
Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions,  
as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus' name. Amen.

## *Household Prayer: Evening*

All through the day, Lord Jesus, you have been present.  
As I settle into the routines of home and evening,  
I long to be at home in my relationship with you.  
Help me to put aside the cares of the day  
and the worries of tomorrow  
in order to fully enjoy the peace of your presence now.  
I pray that your peace will also be with those I know  
who have special need of your care tonight,  
and I pray for those who lie down this night without the safety  
of home or bed,  
without enough food or resources.  
Bring your light into the surrounding darkness  
so that all of us may sleep in the security of your love. Amen.