

# *Lenten Reflections*

*April 15, 2019*



The Holy Week is upon us, and with this it is important we reflect on Jesus. Isaiah Chapter 42:1-3 reads “Upon him I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out, nor shout, nor make his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he will not break. He will faithfully bring forth justice.” Jesus quietly made known God’s mission, and clearly it was for justice; for care of the poor, those on the margins and as stewards of the earth.

Isaiah reads further, “He, Jesus, was the covenant to open the eyes of the blind and bring the prisoners from confinement.” Some may see this verse as literal, although opening our eyes is to take up Jesus’ cross and know we are the ones responsible to carry on the mission. Coming out of confinement is where we allow the Spirit to move us into action. The purpose of the poor and those living in the margins is itself the most important purpose above all others. They remind us every day of the mission handed us by Jesus. The Holy Spirit works through us, as through the Apostles, to take his teachings and carry out his mission.

As Martha had anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair, in the Gospel of John, Chapter 12, let us take this Holy week to realize the importance of Jesus in our lives and to this world. Let us bring him further into ourselves, and with the confidence that he walks along side as we take up his cross and set out to help those in need.

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**Monday of Holy Week**  
**Lectionary: 257**

**Reading 1**     [IS 42:1-7](#)

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,  
Upon whom I have put my Spirit;  
he shall bring forth justice to the nations,  
Not crying out, not shouting,  
not making his voice heard in the street.  
A bruised reed he shall not break,  
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,  
Until he establishes justice on the earth;  
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spreads out the earth with its crops,  
Who gives breath to its people  
and spirit to those who walk on it:  
I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,  
I have grasped you by the hand;  
I formed you, and set you  
as a covenant of the people,  
a light for the nations,  
To open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring out prisoners from confinement,  
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

**Responsorial Psalm**     [PS 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14](#)

**R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

When evildoers come at me  
to devour my flesh,  
My foes and my enemies  
themselves stumble and fall.

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart will not fear;  
Though war be waged upon me,  
even then will I trust.

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

**R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

### **Verse Before The Gospel**

Hail to you, our King;  
you alone are compassionate with our faults.

### **Gospel**      [JN 12:1-11](#)

Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany,  
where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.  
They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served,  
while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him.  
Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil  
made from genuine aromatic nard  
and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair;  
the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.  
Then Judas the Iscariot, one of his disciples,  
and the one who would betray him, said,  
"Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages  
and given to the poor?"  
He said this not because he cared about the poor  
but because he was a thief and held the money bag  
and used to steal the contributions.  
So Jesus said, "Leave her alone.  
Let her keep this for the day of my burial.  
You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came,  
not only because of him, but also to see Lazarus,  
whom he had raised from the dead.  
And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too,  
because many of the Jews were turning away  
and believing in Jesus because of him.