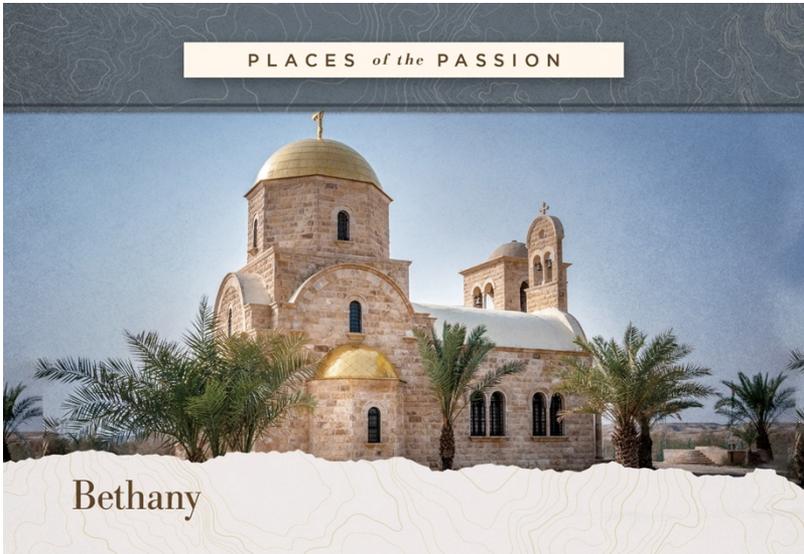


PLACES *of the* PASSION

Bethany



When Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, a woman approached him holding an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table. - Matthew 26:6-7

February 24, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Savior, Thy Dying Love | CW 488
Verse 1-All; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All

Please stand.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C: To see the depths of his love.

M: To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C: To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

M: To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C: We walk with Jesus to Bethany.

M: And into the house of Simon the leper.

C: Mary prepares Christ for his burial by anointing him with perfume.

M: Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C: I shall follow where you guide!

♪ **Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.** ♪

CONFESSION

M: Today's reading from Matthew tells us that Mary approached Jesus with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table. Forgive us, kind Father, for too often, our giving is nothing like this. Instead, our sinful nature prefers another word—get.

C: We want to get even, get back, and get revenge.

M: We want to get more, get ahead, and get on top.

C: We are consumed with consuming, driven by selfish desires, and more passionate about possessions than we are about you.

M: We are too much like the disciples and too little like Mary.

C: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

M: Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. Because he walked the way of sacrifice, Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with us abide!

C: We shall follow where you guide!

Be seated.

READING

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 26:6-13

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | CW 125

1-All; 2-Women; 3-Men; 4-All

SERMON

OFFERING

Please stand.

PRAYERS

M: Gracious God, give us generous hearts so that we would be more willing to give without counting the cost; to share without expecting anything in return;

C: To hold all of our treasures with open hands; to have priorities that are aligned with your Word;

M: To know the freedom that comes with generosity; to give like the Macedonians who looked forward to the privilege of giving and sharing; to give like Mary—joyfully, exceedingly and lavishly;

C: To give like Jesus—lovingly, faithfully and abundantly.

M: Take my love, my Lord, I pour.

C: At your feet its treasure store.

M: Take myself and I will be.

C: Ever, only, all for thee. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

M: Jesus invites us to walk with him to Bethany, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C: Let us ever walk with Jesus! Amen.

Please be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

*Take My Life and Let It Be | CW 469
Verse 1-All; 2-Women; 3-All; 4-Men; 5-All; 6-All*



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