

Places of the Passion

Week 1: Bethany

Order of Service

Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment. Matthew 26:6-7

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

P Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C **To see the depths of his love.**

P To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C **To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

P To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C **We walk with Jesus to Bethany.**

P And into the house of Simon the leper.

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

P Faithful Lord, with me abide.

C **I shall follow where you guide!**

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,

Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; 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 and Forgiveness

P Our Gospel reading states that, "Mary came up to Jesus with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table." Forgive us, kind Father—

C **For too often, our giving is nothing like this.**

P Our sinful nature prefers another word—

C **Get.**

P Get even, get back and get revenge.

C **Get more, get ahead and get on top.**

P We are consumed with consuming.

C **Driven by selfish desires.**

P Passionate about more possessions.

C **We are too much like the disciples.**

P 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.)

P 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. That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C **I shall follow where you guide!**

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading ... Exodus 36:1-7

Epistle Reading ... 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 26:6-13

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray. Gracious God, give us generous hearts.

C **To give without counting the cost.**

P To share without expecting anything in return.

C **To hold all of our treasures with open hands.**

P To have Gospel priorities and align our life, our love and our time in their light.

C **To know the freedom that comes with generosity.**

P To give like the Israelites who continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.

C To give like the Macedonians who urgently pleaded for the privilege of sharing.

P To give like Mary, joyfully, exceedingly and lavishly.

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

P Father, we recall the words of our Savior, “I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” And so we pray,

C Take my love, my Lord, I pour.

P At your feet its treasure store.

C Take myself and I will be.

P Ever, only, all for thee.

C Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

P 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!

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee,

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use ev’ry power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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