

## Reading for Monday in Holy Week

March 30th 2026

### First reading

Isaiah 42:1-7

**‘He will not cry aloud or make his voice heard in the street.’**

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth;

and the coastlands wait for his law.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it

and spirit to those who walk in it:

‘I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people,

a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.’

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 27(26):1. 2. 3. 13-14. R 1a**

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

whom should I dread?

When those who do evil draw near

to devour my flesh,

it is they, my enemies and foes,

who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,

my heart would not fear.

Though war break out against me,

even then would I trust.

I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness

in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong;

be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hail, our King!

You alone have shown compassion on our faults.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

## **Gospel**

### **John 12:1-11**

**‘Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial.’**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ‘Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?’ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the money bag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.’

When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

We are at the beginning of Holy Week during which we will ponder and reflect on the final journey of Jesus. Most of the people Jesus encountered on that final journey were hostile to him. Yet, according to today’s gospel, six days before the feast of Passover during which Jesus was crucified, he experienced great kindness. Not only is he the guest at the table of a family that he loves, one member of that family, Mary, went to great expense to render him a very thoughtful service. She anointed his feet with very expensive perfume and dried them with her hair. A little later in the same gospel, Jesus will wash the feet of his disciples.

Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anticipated that servant-gesture of Jesus himself. She gives herself to Jesus in a loving service that corresponds to how Jesus gives himself to his disciples, and to all of us. Jesus interprets her generous act as preparing him for his death and burial. At the beginning of the last Week of his life, Our Lord welcomed this act of kindness from Mary of Bethany. What that woman did for Jesus we are called to do for each other. On our own life journey, we may meet people who make our journey more difficult. We will also experience people like Mary who support us on our journey, and, hopefully, we can be for others what Mary was for Jesus, a kindly and generous presence in an often hostile world.