

# Living Water Fellowship

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION    *I WANT TO KNOW YOU (MARANATHA! MUSIC)*

**SONG:**                    Here I am to Worship

**WELCOME & PRAYER:**

## GROW IN HIS GRACE

**BIBLE READING:**                    John 12:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honour. Martha served, & Lazarus was among those who ate with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, & she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, <sup>5</sup> "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold & the money given to the poor." <sup>6</sup> Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, & since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

<sup>9</sup> When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him & also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, <sup>11</sup> for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them & believed in Jesus.

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**SONG:**                    I Cannot Tell

**FAITH CHAT:**

1. If you had a year's wages & the freedom to make a gift, what gift would you make?
2. How would you like to spend the last days before your own death?

**THE MESSAGE:**                    *WHOLE-HEARTED DEVOTION*

**OFFERING SONG:**                    How can this be?

**PRAYERS:**

## THE COMMUNION:

### Preparation:

*Righteous God, we confess with sorrow that we often forget it is you who have given us light and made our lives grow in the fertile soil of your love.*

***We forget your living Word & serve our own worldly desires. We make our own lives the benchmark for all lives. Help us to remember Jesus, reconciling the whole world in himself, restoring us to you.***

*Because of God's great love for us, we have peace with God & access to God's grace all through Jesus Christ who, while we were still sinners, died to free us from the bondage of sin.*

***Therefore, we ask: "Lord Jesus, give us the living water that quenches the dryness of our souls." In this we know we are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God!***

### The Words of Institution & The 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, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – GRACE A WAITING ME (EMU MUSIC)

*GO IN HIS POWER*

## THE BLESSING:

***(Name), † child of God,  
Christ, by his dying & rising, lays claim to your full devotion!  
Amen.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### SONG:

Amazing Love (PW 1043)

*SHOW HIS LOVE*

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## Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read John 12:1-11. What questions immediately come to mind? What strikes you as you read this text?
2. What is significant about the setting of this event from the life of Jesus? Why would Mary, Martha & Lazarus be throwing a dinner in Jesus' honour? What would be the chief topic of conversation? What questions would you be asking?
3. How could Mary's act of worship be seen as wasteful? Why would Mary have & then give to Jesus something that expensive?
4. Have you ever met a lavish, extravagant giver? What characterized their life? What types of extravagant giving has God led you to do or what types of extravagant giving have you had the privilege of observing from another believer?
5. Do you think Australian or Western culture, with its focus on retirement funds, emergency funds, self-care, & emotional/physical well-being loses out on extravagant service or extravagant worship? How do you work against that in your life?
6. What does Jesus say about giving to the poor? What do you think he means? Contrast John's recount of this event with Mark 14:6-7. What seems to be the clear implication of Jesus in this instance? How is that different from Judas' attitude?
7. There was no doubt Jesus was Mary's greatest treasure. How would someone watching you know that was also true in your life? What might this look like in your workplace, in your family, with your children, with your friends, or in your hobbies?
8. Do some quick math & consider your yearly income. That is how much Mary poured out on Jesus' feet. What do Mary's actions communicate about Jesus' worth? Compare that to Matthew 13:44-46? Do your actions communicate the same thing?
9. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says: "The chief purpose of human life is to glorify God & enjoy him forever." How would you know this is true by Mary's actions? How would an unbeliever know this about your lifestyle?
10. Read John 12:17-19. The Palm Sunday crowd continued sharing the good news of Jesus with those around them. Studies show that most Christians have never shared their faith. Why do you believe that is so? What holds you back from sharing yours?
11. What does Jesus, through this text, call you to do?

### Remember:

In a world of indifference,  
Jesus calls for our whole-hearted devotion.

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today  
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.***

***In Jesus' Name...Amen.***