

Lectionary Texts for March 25, 2024 • *Monday of Holy Week* - Year B  
Isaiah 42:1-9 • Psalm 36:5-11 • Hebrews 9:11-15 • John 12:1-11

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**John 12:1-11**

*Mary, Sister of Lazarus, Greets Jesus*, 1863, by Nikolai Nikolaevich Ge, Russian, 1831-1894  
Painting, 19 1/4" x 26 3/4"

State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia

The sun is setting, Jerusalem barely visible in the background, as Jesus, alone, trudges up the hill to Bethany. He appears downcast as Mary awaits him at the door. Mary looks at him knowingly. They both understand the significance of the coming week.

Nikolai Nikolaevich Ge's grandfather was a French nobleman who had immigrated to Russia during the 18th century and married a Russian woman. His mother died of cholera when he was three months old, and he grew up on a family estate. He studied physics and mathematics at Kyiv University and Saint Petersburg University. He then studied art at the Imperial Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg, graduating in 1857 and obtaining a scholarship to study abroad. After visiting Germany, Switzerland, and France, he settled in Italy in 1860.

A painting of *The Last Supper*, shown in Saint Petersburg in 1863, was so well received that he was made a professor at the Imperial Academy of Arts. He later moved to Ukraine, purchased a farm, and became acquainted with Leo Tolstoy.

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After Ge's death, the location of many of his works remained a mystery. Some of his drawings were discovered in Swiss second-hand stores as late as 1974, many being acquired by a collector who was unaware of their origin. In 2011 a Russian state bank agreed to purchase and donate them to the Tretyakov Gallery.

— *Art curated and narrative provided by Norman Mahan*  
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### **Isaiah 42:1-9**

Here is 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 or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

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 upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to 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. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them

### **Psalms 36:5-11**

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

Do not let the foot of the arrogant tread on me, or the hand of the wicked drive me away.

## **Hebrews 9:11-15**

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

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

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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