



Wilderness Training

Surprises!

April 3, 2022

Lent 5

Rev. Lori McPherson, Preaching

First Reading ~ *Isaiah 43:16-19*

Thus says YHWH, who made a road through the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who led chariots and warriors to their doom,
a mighty army fallen, never to rise again,
snuffed out and extinguished like a wick:
"Forget the events of the past,
ignore the things of long ago!
Look, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth--can't you see it?
I'm making a road in the desert
and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland."

Second Reading ~ *John 12:1-11*

Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they gave a banquet in Jesus' honor, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at the table. Mary brought a pound of costly ointment, pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment.

Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples--the one who was to betray Jesus--protested, "Why wasn't the ointment sold? It could have brought nearly a year's wages, and the money given to poor people." Judas didn't say this because he was concerned for poor people, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the common fund and would help himself to it.

So Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You have poor people with you always. But you won't always have me."

Meanwhile a large crowd heard that Jesus was there and came to see not only Jesus, but also Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus as well, since it was because of him that many of the people were leaving them and believing in Jesus.