



■ † Fifth Sunday of Lent – St. Mary of Egypt

Anoint the Lord With Loving Prayer of the Heart and Mind*

Epistle (Hebrews 9:11-14)

Brethren, Christ being come a High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building, neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel (St. Mark 10: 32-45)

At that time, Jesus taketh His twelve Disciples and began to tell them what things should happen unto Him, saying, "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn Him to death, and shall deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they shall mock Him, and shall scourge Him, and shall spit upon Him, and shall kill Him; and the third day He shall rise again. And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, "Master, we would that Thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire." And He said unto them, "What would

ye that I should do for you?" They said unto Him, "Grant unto us that we may sit, one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left hand, in thy glory." But Jesus said unto them, "Ye know not what ye ask. Can ye drink of the cup that I drink of, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" And they said unto Him, "We can." And Jesus said unto them, "Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of, and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized. But to sit on My right hand and on My left hand is not Mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Him, and saith unto them, "Ye know that they who are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you; but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister. And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The sinful woman, upon hearing that the Savior was in Simon's house, came with an alabaster box of ointment. Kneeling behind the Lord, she started to weep and washed His feet with her tears, then wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with myrrh (cf. St. Luke 7:36–39).



She did not say anything. She only acted, and through her actions revealed a most tender love for the Lord.

Thus was it spoken of her: *Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much* (St. Luke 7:47).

Oh, when will we talk less and act more, and by our deeds bear witness to our love for the Lord?

You might say, "If He were here now I would be ready to do everything for Him." But He is here, invisible in His person, but visible in all Christians, most of all in the needy.

Anoint the invisible Lord with loving prayer of the heart and mind, and, for His sake, do everything possible for the needy, and you will be doing this for God.



(* St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God.*