

Daily Homily
Sixth Week in Lent
Holy Week: Monday
29 March 2021
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The Gospel for today tells us that there are two ways to approach this Holy Week. We see in this particular excerpt a distinction in those two ways – they are the ultimate contrast.

Mary from Bethany pours out on Jesus's feet costly perfumed oil and goes even over-the-top to dry his feet with her hair instead of just using a towel. One way to approach this week is to be just as generous, just as over-the-top, since this week is over-the-top as well with prayer and activity.

OR

Judas' reaction – miserly, stingy, jaded, self-concerned.

Another contrast...

Lazarus is at this gathering. John, the Gospel writer, wants all to know that this is the Lazarus "whom Jesus raised from the dead," since that is mentioned twice. Jesus' power over sickness and sin is evident in those whom he healed and forgave. Jesus' power over death is now visible in the one whom he resuscitated from dying. Another way to approach this week – choose life! Choose to live – in every step, in every word, in every action of this week, there is an opportunity to choose life and to truly be alive.

OR

The chief priests' reaction – all this attention on Jesus and Lazarus is a waste of time, they too are self-concerned, caught up in envy and jealousy, and they, in their plotting, are already choosing death.

This week has all sorts of contrasts and choices. May we be deeply aware of what we are choosing as we follow the Lord into this week.