

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 13, 2010**

**Readings for June 13, 2010, Third Sunday after Pentecost:**

**LUKE 7:36-50**

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. <sup>37</sup>And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. <sup>38</sup>She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him — that she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup>Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." <sup>41</sup>"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup>Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup>Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." <sup>48</sup>Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup>But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup>And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**Faith Questions:**

1. Why do you think that the gospel writer specifies that the woman who came to wash Jesus' feet "was a sinner" (verse 37)? In your opinion, does this matter? Who is not a sinner? What, if anything, makes this woman different than anyone else?
2. Who deserves forgiveness? Who gets forgiveness?
3. When have you been forgiven? When have you forgiven someone else? Is there someone in your life who you still need to forgive or who you need forgiveness from? How hard can it be to forgive sometimes?
4. Jesus says in verse 47, "Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love." Which came first according to Jesus: the woman being forgiven, or her showing great love? Notice that she is not forgiven because she loves, but she loves because she is forgiven. How might this affect what you believe about how God works when it comes to forgiveness?
5. You are forgiven. Who needs your love?

**Let us pray:**

O forgiving God, each day you forgive us and we are born again in You. Because we are forgiven, we are called to love. Help us to be more loving and more forgiving of ourselves and others. Teach us to serve you the way the woman with the alabaster jar of ointment did.

*For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)*  
Amen.

Bible passages from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by staff at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Rebecca Kolowé, Diaconal Minister.

Copyright 2010; may be reproduced and shared widely for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.