

5th Sunday of Lent: Scripture says that when we live together in unity it is like fragrant oil is poured out upon us. Today notice instances of people living together in unity and give thanks for the sweet fragrance of unity. When you notice disharmony, pray for unity.

Psalm 133:1-2 - How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

Monday: Scripture talks about the prayers of God's people rising up before God like incense. Our prayers are a sweet fragrance to God. Let the sweet smells you notice today remind you to give thanks to God for the blessings in your life.

Psalm 141:2a - Let my prayer be counted as incense before you.

Tuesday: Death stinks. In our time we are often shielded from the stench of death but we know deep in our bones that death stinks, both literally and figuratively. Today pray for all who are facing death and all who are grieving.

John 11:38-40 - Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'

Wednesday: Tonight in worship we will hear about how the stench of death can only be met with the fragrance of love. Mary of Bethany showed Jesus great love by anointing his feet with perfume before his death. Reflect on fragrances that convey love to you: the smell of bread baking, sheets freshly laundered for you, a meal prepared for you.

John 12:1-3 - 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.

Thursday: Today notice the smells of the oils, soaps and moisturizers you use. When King David was anointed with fragrant oil, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. In our baptisms we too have been anointed with oil and the Spirit has been poured out upon us. Remember that as you use oils today.

1 Samuel 16:13 - Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Friday/Saturday: Notice the scents of the food you eat and drink. Let the scents remind you to give thanks to God. Pray for those who must live among unpleasant odors.

Psalm 23: 5 - You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil.