

# **SENSING HOPE**

February 17, 2021 - March 17, 2021

Lutheran World Relief Series

March 10, 2021 Seeing Hope Session 3
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■ Touching Hope:	February 17, 2021	Preached February 21, 2021	■
■ Hearing Hope:	February 24, 2021	Preached February 28, 2021	■
■ Seeing Hope:	March 3, 2021	Preached March 7, 2021	■
■ Smelling Hope:	March 10, 2021	Preached March 14, 2021	■
■ Tasting Hope:	March 17, 2021	Preached March 21, 2021	■

SMELLING HOPE: Reclaiming hope in Zambia for those in poverty  
2 Corinthians 2:14-17 | The Aroma of Christ  
John 12:1-8 | Mary Anoints Jesus

How your hope provides warmth and comfort for neighbors in Zambia

<https://www.nationsonline.org/maps/africa-political-map.jpg> >> a map of countries which make up the continent Africa for reference to the location of Zambia & East Africa.

Through Lutheran World Relief, your love helps communities in East Africa get more out of the agricultural value chain. Currently, in Zambia, communities are not only affected by the pandemic but also by poverty. While Zambia is one of the more stable and developed countries in Africa, many people live without access to basic necessities. Quilts are among the basic needs many Zambians lack. Zambia is one of the colder African countries. Bedding is expensive and many families sleep in the cold.

Lutheran World Relief recently distributed LWR quilts and Baby Care Kits, clothing and food to meet as many needs as possible. The LWR shipment was delivered to a rural village called Mazambani, located in the southern province. Distributions have been difficult due to COVID-19, but these

items were never needed more than during this global pandemic. The village leaders told our local team that most of their community had never heard of or seen such a thing (referring to all the supplies handed out) in their lifetime.

### SMELL

Light a scented candle. Take time to smell the flame and sit with its fragrance. OR find a fragrance which you like.

(Pr. Stacy~ I will take time to smell essential oils)

### DISCUSS

1. What did you notice as you sat and smelled the candle's scent?
2. What stories came to your mind that connected with the smell of the candle?  
What might hope smell like?
3. What signs of hope are experienced when quilts are given to families around the world?

### BIBLE STUDY

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & John 12:1-8

What does hope smell like? Does it smell like incense rising, coffee brewing, a garden's bounty, your grandmother's kitchen or newly-fallen rain?

What about smells that turn us away? Does a foul smell point us away from hope and beauty? Do we turn away from things that make us nauseous? In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul shares how God and smell can be connected in our life of faith: "We are the aroma of Christ to God."

In today's lesson, Mary anoints Jesus's feet with costly perfume, filling the house with the fragrance. Mary offers a gift, one that is pleasing to the senses, and one that foretells Jesus' death. Mary shows us the power of connection to Jesus through the use of fragrant oil. One of the symptoms of COVID-19 involves the loss of smell. When we lose our sense of smell we can feel disconnected from our bodies and the world around us.

1. Paul writes: "We are the aroma of Christ to God." What do you think of those words?
2. Have you ever connected smell to your faith?
3. Have you or someone you've known lost their sense of smell?

4. What was the experience like?
5. Mary offers an extravagant gift to Jesus by anointing his feet with perfume. Recall a time where you gave or received an extravagant gift.

### PRAY

God of love and grace, may we use our hands to bless and heal others. Like Mary offering the pleasing fragrance of perfume, help us to reach out to others with gifts pleasing to the senses: bread, warm drinks, flowers. Teach us to look for signs of your presence in warm blankets, the smell of a candle and friends who listen to us. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

LWR - Lutheran World Relief

At Lutheran World Relief, we envision a future where all people, in every corner of the world can live full, dignified lives.

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. We work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize. We provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. We partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. We break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive. Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.