

2024 ΛΕΠΤΕΡ REFLECTIONS

from the Villanova University Community





Lent is an exceptional time for conversion, to become more attentive to the cry of the poor as well as that of the planet itself, our common home. We are always in need of growth and Lent is the time to rededicate ourselves to grow in Christ. As Pope Francis reminds us: “The human person grows more, matures more, is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures” (*Laudato Si*, 240).

We are not yet all that we are called to be. Lent provides the opportunity to fix our GPS firmly on Jesus, to make it ever more clear toward what we are drawn. Now is the time to become more identified with Jesus and the lifestyle of the reign He inaugurated. It's so easy to get distracted while we journey along the way, to begin to think that the things we do achieve our salvation. Lent reminds us that salvation is a gift, for which we can demonstrate our gratitude but never earn, deserve, or merit.

Our Lenten practices have much less to do with what we are “giving up” than with what we choose to share. We share as we have been shared with—going out of ourselves to enter into greater communion with nature, with others, with God. Communion is not one-sided, but mutual. It's less about doing for others than doing with others. It's growing together.

We hope these brief reflections penned by members of the Villanova community will encourage you during this exceptional time of conversion, and to help you “become what you are not yet” (St. Augustine, Sermon 169).

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2024



JL 2:12-18

PS 51:3-4,
5-6ab, 12-13, 14
and 17

2 COR 5:20—6:2

MT 6:1-6, 16-18

“Rend your
hearts .. and
return to the
LORD, your
God”
(JL 2:13).

You may feel as if you have just finished returning the last of the Christmas gifts, and now we are at the beginning of Lent. A word from today’s scripture that jumped off the page at me was “return.” The Prophet Joel reminds us that the LORD calls to us, “return to me with your whole heart” (JL2:12). Here, we are not returning a Christmas gift that was not the right size or color. Rather, we are called to return our whole heart (how appropriate also for Valentine’s Day). We are called to return to the LORD something we value greatly. We are challenged in Lent to recognize when we have strayed from our relationship with the LORD and with each other. This Lent, let us seize the opportunity to conversion and to return.

—The Rev. Joseph Farrell, OSA, ’85 VSB, ’19 MSCM
Vicar General of the Order of St. Augustine

*What can I do this Lent to help return to the LORD
with my whole heart?*

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2024



When given the choice between life and prosperity, and death and doom as laid out in today's reading (Dt 30:15-20), there would seem to be a clear winner. And yet, choosing life has historically never come easy for us human beings. Loving God, and walking in God's ways, keeping God's commandments, statutes and decrees—we try (admittedly, some harder than others) but time and again we are led astray by false gods. For some, the desire to be wealthy and to have nice things can be overwhelming. Others are tempted to put success before their faith and loved ones. Technology can be an object of worship that takes up too much time and disconnects us from what matters.

To choose life, we must do as Jesus says in the Gospel (Lk 9:22-25) and take up our cross daily. We mustn't follow our earthly desires but follow the Lord. That is the path to Paradise.

—Megan Walsh-Boyle

Senior Writer, University Communication and Marketing

Does anything hold a higher priority in my life than my walk with God?

DT 30:15-20

PS 1:1-2, 3, 4
and 6

LK 9:22-25

“What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself” (LK 9:25).

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 16, 2024



IS 58:1-9a

PS 51:3-4,
5-6ab, 18-19

MT 9:14-15

“Have mercy
on me, O
God, in your
goodness
(PS 51:3).

Among the many rich themes in Shusaku Endo’s historical fiction *Silence*, one that has stood out for me is that of “the face.” Sebastian Rodrigues, a Portuguese priest, ends one of his first letters of the novel contemplating an image of the face of Christ: “I feel great love for that face. I am always fascinated by the face of Christ, just like a man fascinated by the face of his beloved.” Where am I being called to see Christ’s face anew at the outset of our Lenten journey?

Today’s readings—on fruitful fasting and the immediacy of Christ’s presence to his disciples—point to one waymarker. Our attempts to prune our false attachments this Lent are not goods themselves (and this is why we don’t just fast but also pray and give alms). They are meant to transform our vision so that we may—with surprise, awe, humility, and love—see anew the face of Christ, who, as Gerard Manley Hopkins says, “plays in ten thousand places, /Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his/To the Father through the features of men’s faces.”

—Mat Verghese ’18 MA

Director of Liturgy, Office for Mission and Ministry

How can I contemplate the face of Christ anew?

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2024



“**T**he Lord...will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails” (Isaiah 58:9b-14).

What do I do when I feel depleted of strength? Most often, when constant activity and inadequate rest catch up to me, my instinct is to turn inward and seek worldly pursuits to restore me. But today’s reading offers us a better way to renew our strength: by resting in God and helping our neighbor. In weak moments, I think to myself, “God, I have nothing left to give!” Yet our good and gracious God only requires our love and brokenness, reminding us that “those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do” (LK 5:31).

This Lent, let us answer Jesus’s call to “Follow me” (LK 5:27), and like Levi, abandon everything, even sinfulness, as Christ alone can restore us to new life against the darkness.

—Madison Matella ’25 FCN

How is God asking you to let Him strengthen and heal you through surrender to Him?

IS 58:9b-14

PS 86:1-2,
3-4, 5-6

LK 5:27-32

“You shall
be like a
watered
garden”
(IS 58:11).

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

GN 9:8-15

PS 25:4-5,
6-7, 8-9.

1 PT 3:18-22

MK 1:12-15

“I set my bow
in the clouds
to serve as
a sign of the
covenant
between
me and the
earth”
(GN 9:13).

Today's Gospel teaches us that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying in preparation for his public ministry, while being tempted by Satan. As we enter into our own Lenten season, we can take comfort in today's Gospel's statement that “the angels ministered to him” (MK 1:13). Therefore, Jesus was not alone in these 40 days of fasting and temptation, and neither are we alone during Lent as we can call upon the Lord and his angels to sustain and teach us.

We also know that Jesus was learned in the sacred Jewish texts, and he likely spent some time in the desert reflecting upon the comforting words from today's Psalm of David: “Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD” (PS 25:6-7).

—Dennis C. McAndrews Esq., '75 CLAS, '78 JD

How do you want to grow close to God during Lent?

MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 19, 2024



Jesus Christ our Lord came to show us the way with His words and actions.

The phrase in the first reading, *“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy”* (LV 19:2), invites us to aspire to live as Jesus did while on Earth. His actions were accompanied by His words to give them further meaning and provide guidance. As the Psalm states, *“Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life”* (JN 6:63b). The importance of His words, and of our receptiveness to listening, is once again found in the first words from the Gospel: *“Jesus said to his disciples...”* (MT 25:31).

As His disciples, we are called upon to share His word: *“And he answered and said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things you have seen and heard”*

—Marlene Stueber, Parent

LV 19:1-2, 11-18

PS 19:8, 9,
10, 15

MT 25:31-46

“You shall
love your
neighbor as
yourself”
(LV 19:18)

How can the Word of God move us to act today?

TUESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF LEPT

FEBRUARY 20, 2024



IS 55:10-11

PS 34:4-5, 6-7,
16-17, 18-19

MT 6:7-15

“Look to God
that you may
be radiant
with joy”
(PS 34:6).

Since the dawn of time, God has been intimately involved in our lives. He breathed His life onto the Earth through the Spirit. He sends us His word, through Jesus, the Word made flesh. He sends us the perfect words to talk to him, the Our Father. His word gives us all we need: strength, encouragement, guidance, and wisdom. His mercy and love come without our intervention. His will ultimately will prevail, and yet, God desires a relationship with each of us, and invites us to speak to Him. He continues to nurture us, instruct us, and feed our every need. He wants and enables each of us to do the work of the all-loving creator.

—John Surry '02 COE

How can I use God's word to spread the kingdom?

WEDNESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2024



God is relentless in His love and mercy, and His efforts to connect with us never stop. He always offers an opportunity for us to repent and be reconciled with Him in a new and improved relationship. But we seem to still want more before taking that step. We demand signs. From Jonah to Jesus, the message has been the same. Yet God understands our human limitations and sends us “something greater” in the gift of His own Son, someone just like us to show us the way. If only we would recognize that this IS the sign we need!

—Seton Alves Feeney '92

JON 3:1-10

PS 51:3-4,
12-13, 18-19

LK 11:29-32

“A steadfast
spirit renew
within me”
(PS 51:12).

*What will help me take the next step toward
improving my relationship with the Lord?*

THURSDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF LEPT

FEBRUARY 22, 2024



1 PT 5:1-4

PS 23:1-3a,
4, 5, 6

MT 16:13-19

“I will give
you the
keys to the
Kingdom of
heaven”
(MT 16:19).

I*te ad Petram*—go to Peter. Today, we celebrate the Chair of St. Peter and recall the responsibility given to him by Jesus as an apostle, shepherd, and the first pope. We're also greeted not only by a warning against unsuitable forms of shepherding the flock that is the Church, but inversely the goodness that comes from having Christ as our Good Shepherd. These readings beautifully highlight leadership as part of the Christian life in its fullness, which regretfully includes our leaders' shortcomings. Today, the Church is marred by the scars of institutional corruption and abuse, negligence from those who ought to care the most. And yet, the grace of God prevails and shines through the darkness through the authentic witness of leaders like Peter, who forever changed history. May our leadership and influence on others be rooted in Christ, ever “being the example to the flock” (1 PT 5:3) that guides others towards verdant pastures and streams of living water.

—Dane Litchfield, '25 MTS

*Where can you improve in imitation of Christ,
our Good Shepherd?*

FRIDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 23, 2024



When I read today's Gospel, it reminds me of the reconciliation present in the eucharist that allows me to forgive others. I deserve peace. That's not to say that I should forgive my transgressor's actions as permissible. The eucharist reinforces that I deserve peace within my mind and spirit.

It's admittedly hard to accept that I can spend months, perhaps decades without an apology from someone who hurt me. Forgiveness to me is an acknowledgement that what a person did to me hurt me, and I need to let something in the relationship die (doubt, dishonesty, etc.) to let something new grow: peace. The transgressor may never know that I've forgiven them, but what matters is that I am at peace.

After reading the Gospel, I invite you to consider this this Lenten season: what do you need to die in order for peace to blossom with your transgressor?

—Victor José Jaimes, '21 MA

EZ 18:21-28

PS 130:1-2, 3-4,
5-7a, 7bc-8

MT 5:20-26

“Make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit” (EZ 18:31).

What in me needs to die to make room for peace?

SATURDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 24, 2024



DT 26:16-19

PS 119:1-2, 4-5,
7-8

MT 5:43-48

“Love your
enemies
and pray for
those who
persecute
you”
(MT 5:44).

As we journey through the first week of Lent, many of us likely have yet to make a firm Lenten sacrifice. However, the Gospel for today offers us a good suggestion: “be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (MT 5:48).

How do we go about being perfect? The first reading and the psalm offer us a few suggestions. They recommend observing His statutes, commandments, decrees (c.f. DT 26:17), and blamelessly following the law of the Lord (c.f. PS 119). Tangibly, amid the current upheavals in both the Church and society, this may be best put into practice by recommitting ourselves to follow the doctrines of the Church – especially the difficult ones. Lent offers us a great opportunity to rediscover the teachings of the Holy Mother Church in their entirety, wholeness, and truth. Indeed, for many of us this may be a sacrifice. However, Lent is a season of sacrifice. .

—Matthew Nawn '26 COE

What teachings of the Church do I struggle with and why? How can I make an effort to recommit myself to following the laws of God and His Church this Lent?

SECOND SUNDAY OF LEPT

FEBRUARY 25, 2024



After I started college, my family moved to a new city that we had never been to before. This experience made me reflect on my attitude towards change. I realized I was excited to explore new sights, meet new people and discover a different neighborhood. The change of environment was particularly striking to me because I could not have imagined the faces I saw or the buildings I walked past.

In today's Gospel reading, the apostles struggled to understand Jesus' message about rising from the dead. Their limited imagination prevented them from grasping the concept. However, they found eternal life by trusting their faith, just like Abraham did before them.

—Symone Atienza '26 CLAS

GN 22:1-2, 9a,
10-13, 15-18

PS 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19

ROM 8:31b-34

MK 9:2-10

“This is my
beloved Son.
Listen to
Him”
(MK 9:7).

*What do you need to notice of your surroundings
so God can work through you?*

MONDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2024



DN 9:4b-10

PS 79:8, 9, 11
and 13

LK 6:36-38

“You have the
words of
everlasting
life”
(JN 6:68).

The readings in this week of Lent focus on repentance, forgiveness, and following the path toward giving what you hope to receive. Daniel’s prayer confesses the wrongdoing of his people. Psalm 79 asks for forgiveness, and in the words of Luke, Jesus conveys that it is only God who judges, condemns, and brings mercy to us. If we want to receive forgiveness and mercy, then we must give it ourselves. Especially in this election year, where the need for coming together in love, peace and harmony has never been greater, these readings especially ring true.

My reflection for this Lenten season is that we start today and continue every day, giving the respect, love, kindness and forgiveness that we hope to receive. And by doing this each day, perhaps that elusive peace and harmony will emerge.

—Ross A. Lee, PhD

Professor of Practice, Sustainable Engineering

How can I live each day by giving what I hope to receive in all that I think, say and do?

TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 27, 2024



Jesus speaks directly to his disciples, describing the Pharisees and scribes as authoritative preachers but not practitioners of the Word of God. Jesus says they put “burdens on people,” “do deeds to be seen,” and “love places of honor.” Despite their flaws, Jesus directs his disciples to follow the Mosaic Law and “do whatever they tell you.” In this text, the religious authorities are not good examples of following God’s Law. How do we apply this lesson?

Gracious readers, we are to be good examples to others, whatever our present station in life. Our responsibility as Christian influencers is to bring blessings to our little corners of the world.

Be a blessing to others, not a burden; a servant leader, not a self-serving one. Be a doer of the Word of God planted in your heart.

—Kathy Overturf
Campus Minister, Retired

*Have I failed to encourage and care for others?
Do I see others through the lens of God?*

IS 1:10, 16-20

PS 50:8-9,
16bc-17,
21 and 23

MT 23:1-12

“To the upright I will show the saving power of God”
(PS 50:23).

WEDNESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2024



JER 18:18-20

PS 31:5-6, 14,
15-16

MT 20:17-28

“Whoever follows me will have the light of life” (JN 8:12).

We are reminded that we are called to follow the example of Jesus, who “did not come to be served but to serve” (MT 20:28). We are blessed to be affiliated with Villanova, a home to service in action. My favorite groups on campus include our Augustinian friars, the Center for Peace and Justice Education, Villanova Interdisciplinary Immigration Studies Training for Advocates, the Center for Global and Public Health, and Villanova Engineering Service Learning. Jesus calls us: “whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant, whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave” (MT 20:26-27). Does a grieving friend need a phone call? Perhaps your department needs a committee chair? Maybe a colleague needs a sitter? Ask yourself where you can be of service and then block that time in your calendar today. Open your heart and act on His call.

—David W. Dinehart, PhD

Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering

As a Villanovan, how can I be of service to others?

THURSDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

FEBRUARY 29, 2024



In his earthly life, Lazarus was consigned to the margins, stricken with illness, and disregarded by his peers, all while the nearby rich man lavishly enjoyed a life of comfort, blissfully unphased by the suffering in his midst. Nevertheless, it was Lazarus who would ultimately find peace in death whilst his affluent counterpart faced perdition. Even in a state of torment himself, the rich man did not acknowledge the suffering of the beggar who was once at his entryway.

Although we may never truly relate to Lazarus on a visceral level, in Lent through sacrifices and penance, fasting, and self-discipline, we bring ourselves closer to the transformative model of Christ, a face seen clearest in the impoverished and forgotten. May we humble ourselves to look beyond the riches of our time. May we acknowledge the Lazarus in our midst, and see Christ through them.

—**Marcy Andersen '21 MA**

Assist. Director, Local Service & Community Engagement,
Center for the Common Good

—**William Kuncken '21 MA**

Doctoral Student, Theology and Religious Studies

JER 17:5-10

PS 1:1-2, 3,
4 and 6

LK 16:19-31

“The LORD
watches over
the way of
the just”
(PS 1:6).

What changes can you prayerfully make to lie in greater solidarity with the poor and vulnerable of the world?

FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 1, 2024



GN 37:3-4,
12-13a, 17b-28a

PS 105:16-17,
18-19, 20-21

MT 21:33-43,
45-46

“Remember
the marvels
the Lord
has done”
(PS 105:5).

Today's readings have so many interesting aspects that reveal the humanity we confront in relationships with our immediate family.

We read in Genesis that Joseph's brothers conspired to remove him from the family. Growing up with an older brother and two younger sisters—all of us one year apart from another—there were constant rivalries and alliances formed and broken. I played the part of peace maker and alliance creator. Every family crisis offered a new challenge to navigate. Now, as a father of two daughters I see how important it is to create strong bonds among siblings and not play favorites. We need one another.

What are you doing today to create, nurture and repair your family relationships? What are you willing to sacrifice to make amends during Lent?

—Jerry Quinn '87 VSB '16 P

Where can I build relationships with family members?

SATURDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF LEPT

MARCH 2, 2024



Come to your senses!

God's word calls us to deepen our faith journey to be and live mercy.

The prophet Micah, the Psalmist, and our brother Luke invite us to "Come to our senses!" Leaving "home," whether Egypt, our family home, or our comfort zones, and embarking on the unknown to deepen and discover an authentic "home" is critical to being and living MERCY. This promise gives us the courage to come to a deeper living faith. We do this because "mercy" is the promise, and forgiveness is the path that supports the journey and the creation of the new "home." Deepening and strengthening faith calls us to total trust in the mercy of God, who watches and waits for us to "Come to our senses" to be and live mercy.

Come to your senses!

—Beth Hassel, PBVM, DMin
Director, Center for Faith and Learning

How can I live a deeper and courageous faith?

MI 7:14-15,
18-20

PS 103:1-2, 3-4,
9-10, 11-12

LK 15:1-3, 11-32

"He was lost
and has
been found"
(LK 15:32).

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 3, 2024



EX 20:1-17

PS 19:8, 9, 10, 11

1 COR 1:22-25

JN 2:13-25

“The LORD
has blessed
the sabbath
day and
made
it holy”
(EX 20:11).

Sacred Space

Have you stumbled or fallen recently? As we grow older, we hear that question more often. To stumble is quite easy; to get back up again and continue our journey is more complicated.

A frequent stumbling block can be our misguided desire to maintain our own space. Space is not so much about buildings or material goods as about our relationships. Less about keeping others out than providing the opportunity to welcome and gather them in. More about searching together for what we hold in common: our humanity, our common home.

Sacred space is less identified with a building, a place of worship, than the depth and breadth of our relationships: with God, others and nature itself.

In a society where people are at the service of the economy, with their worth focused on what they have rather than who they are, Lent is an opportunity to reorient ourselves and grow more in our respect and appreciation for nature, others and God.

—The Rev. Arthur Purcaro, OSA, PhD, '72 CLAS

Assistant Vice President, Mission and Ministry

How can I better use time, energy and resources to grow in my relationships?

MONDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 4, 2024



Naaman was a noble warrior but was plagued with leprosy. At the suggestion of his wife's servant, Naaman visited Elisha, who told Naaman to bathe in the Jordan seven times. Naaman brushed it off as ludicrous as he expected Elisha "to do something extraordinary," and he left angry and disheartened. Naaman's servants eventually persuaded him to trust Elisha's command. He bathed in the Jordan, was cleansed of his leprosy, and came to believe in God.

Much like Naaman, sometimes we are waiting for God to do something extraordinary in our lives, to magically remove the obstacles in our way. It can take the persuasion of others, like Naaman's servants, to help us listen to God and trust God's timing. Oftentimes, it is through the struggles we overcome that we learn to greater appreciate God's many blessings.

—Amelia Arrieta '26 CLAS

When have I encountered God during my times of struggle?

2 KGS 5:1-15ab

PS 42:2, 3;
43:3, 4

LK 4:24-30

"I hope in the
LORD, I trust
in his word"
(PS 130:5).

TUESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 5, 2024



DN 3:25, 34-43

PS 25:4-5ab,
6 and 7bc, 8-9

MT 18:21-35

“Your ways,
O LORD,
make known
to me; teach
me your
paths”
(PS 25:4).

“**B**e where your feet are.” My grandfather repeated those five little words to me as a young kid, encouraging me to be kind, unafraid, and not to let a bad moment lead to a bad day.

Today’s reading reminds me to trust Him with a contrite heart and humble spirit. I believe it’s essential at times to perhaps shift from the permeating mindset of trying to live as if each day is our *last* to be instead more about living each day as if it’s our *first*. Rather than trying to seize the day with a sense of urgency, let’s try to be wholly present in times of uncertainty. Seeking out the tiny moments of joy and hope can sometimes be exactly what we need to put us in a state of wonder and peace.

In what way(s) has God provided you with moments of peace by holding your feelings and emotions *with* you? How can you be there—fully—for someone in your life during this Lenten season?

—Patrick Gallagher '06 VSB

Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Relations
Charles Widger School of Law

How can you find tiny moments of hope and joy daily?

WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 6, 2024



Blessed are we who are given the gift, the gift to discern God's will for us. Think back on the last year. Recall the times you've heard the phrase, "Just do what feels right." The message being, don't do what anyone else tells you to do, you know best. Today's readings tell us a different message. God knows and loves each one of us. God knows our heartbreak and the difficulties of our lives. God revealed the law to Moses, and later, revealed the Son. In the example of Jesus, we are taught how to fulfill the Law.

Jesus's presence proclaims: our best self, our best life is with God, following the statutes and ordinances God has laid out. The laws of the world constrain. God's law empowers. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (MT 11:30). God's way calls us home. Today, let us reflect on what feels right.

—Josemaria Dolores '03 COE

DT 4:1, 5-9

PS 147:12-13,
15-16, 19-20

MT 5:17-19

"Your words,
Lord, are
Spirit and
life"
(JN 6:63)

Do I take time to understand God's will for me?

THURSDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 7, 2024



JER 7:23-28

PS 95:1-2, 6-7,
8-9

LK 11:14-23

“Come, let us
sing joyfully
to the LORD”
(PS 95:1).

Jeremiah was a reluctant prophet. Despite the emotional burden of his role, he was able to move beyond a critical inner voice and respond to what God was asking of him. Today’s psalm offers us similar instruction. Put simply, these readings call us to listen and to respond to God alone. It should come as no surprise, then, that the demon that had taken hold of the man in today’s Gospel is described as “mute” (LK 11:14). In another Gospel account, when a possessed man speaks, Christ silences the demon. Voices that seek to bind us, to smother our hope, or prevent us from living in the joy of the Gospel are not from God. Today, let us pray for the ability to discern the voice of God amongst the many messages we receive, including those that find their origin in our own fears and reluctancies.

—Sean McElwee ’15 MA

Associate Director of Liturgical Music,
Office for Mission and Ministry

How do we discern the voice of God amongst the many messages we receive?

FRIDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2024



In this time of unrest and conflict, today's scripture prompts us to stop, reflect, and have faith: "Let him who is wise understand these things; let him who is prudent know them. Straight are the paths of the LORD, in them the just walk, but sinners stumble in them" (HOS 14:10). We're human, and we stumble. Yet, we have a forgiving God who understands we are doing our best. Likewise, we should treat others with this understanding and forgiving spirit, acknowledging that they are doing the best they can. We need to meet others with this baseline—to believe something good about someone rather than something bad when the choice presents itself. With prayer and following the example of Jesus, let us respond to others as God treats us.

—Amy Delaney P '24

HOS 14:2-10

PS 81:6c-8a,
8bc-9, 10-11ab,
14 and 17

MK 12:28-34

"You shall
love your
neighbor
as yourself"
(MK 12:31).

How will you change your mindset today when you think someone is not acting how you want them to?

SATURDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 9, 2024



HOS 6:1-6

PS 51:3-4, 18-19,
20-21ab

LK 18:9-14

“The one who
humbles
himself
will
be exalted”
(LK 18:14).

Today's reading has a two-pronged intent. On the surface, this parable tells us to watch out for the sin of vanity. Vanity was the first sin, which was committed by Adam and Eve and led to the fall of humanity. A deeper meaning, however, is the foreshadowing of Christ's suffering. At each Mass, we are reminded of Christ humbling Himself. Before the blessing and consecration of the gifts, the wine and water are mixed, and the priest (often quietly) will repeat the words: “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.” Even Christ, God the Son, the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (JN 1:29), humbles Himself in His Passion on the Cross. Is it any doubt why we, His creation, exalt Him on high?

—Joe Michail, '19 CLAS

How can you practice humility this Lent? Can you abolish vanity from your life?

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 10, 2024



My roommate has a sign that says, “LOVE Y’ALL” (JN 3:16). The simplification of one of the most famous Bible verses is quite funny, but it’s true. God loves us even when we act in ways that are undeserving of Him.

We have free will in deciding if we shall live for God or for ourselves. On Earth, God’s love and forgiveness extends to all, even those who don’t believe. When we leave this world, we will be judged before God, who will decide if we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Those who “preferred darkness to light” (JN 3:19) will be “condemned” (JN 3:18). Here I think is where intentionality comes in. Do we perform good only to escape damnation, or out of genuine love for God and others? People still exploring what faith means can act more Christ-like than a believer doing everything for show. How do we want to live?

—Angelica Tiffany Garcia ’22 COE

This Lent, have I acted with love towards those around me? Is there doubt in my mind that I am worthy of God’s love?

2 CHR 36:14-16,
19-23

PS 137:1-2, 3,
4-5, 6

EPH 2:4-10

JN 3:14-21

“For by grace
you have
been saved
through
faith”
(EPH 2:5).

MONDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 11, 2024



IS 65:17-21

PS 30:2 and 4,
5-6, 11-12a and
13b

JN 4:43-54

“Seek good
and not evil
so that you
may live”
(AM 5:14).

I don't know if you're like me, but at times I find myself struggling spiritually to observe Lent and prepare for Easter. The days can be a spiritual blur as I am distracted by the busyness of work and family matters. There seems to be little time to reflect on Christ's work, sacrifice, death and resurrection. We barely have time to ponder deeply what that really means.

But let us not forget to praise Him. He has rescued us.

In a world filled with sin, war, death and destruction, let us meditate on the promise of a new heaven and a new earth. And as we go through our daily lives, let us strive to do good and avoid evil. Remember that the LORD is always with us during our spiritual and daily struggles.

Ha Masheeha houh quam!

Christus resurrexit!

Christos anesti!

Christ is Risen!

—Steven Lengkeek

Director of Finance and Administration,
College of Engineering

How will you seek good today?

TUESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 12, 2024



The angel tells Ezekiel, “Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live” (47:9). How true this is! When we allow the waters of abundant life to saturate the dry areas of our souls, we become better people through God’s love. Like water that nourishes the desert and transforms it into something new, God lavishes love on us, and as a result, we become more life-giving, loving, and mature in our faith, hearts, souls, and actions. Whenever we experience dryness in our spiritual or physical lives, God invites us to return and become new.

As we near Holy Week, how am I allowing God to flood my life with His love? Where are the dry areas that need nourishment? How can I be a source of life to others?

—Anonymous ’14 CLAS

Take time to examine areas of your life that need God’s love. How can you invite God to help you to flourish?

EZ 47:1-9, 12

PS 46:2-3, 5-6,
8-9

JN 5:1-16

“Behold the deeds of the LORD, the astounding things he has wrought on earth” (PS 46:9).

WEDNESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 13, 2024



IS 49:8-15

PS 145:8-9,
13cd-14, 17-18

JN 5:17-30

“Those who
hear will live”
(JN 5:25).

Is God speaking to you? In today’s Gospel, Jesus says, “whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and ... has passed from death to life” (JN 5:24). He emphasizes this notion of hearing His word: “the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (JN 5:25b), and “the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear [the Son of Man’s] voice and will come out” (JN 5:28-29a). How can the dead hear His voice?

Could Jesus be talking about more than just physical death? Could one who is spiritually dead hear God’s voice? To hear God’s voice, one must first listen. And one needs a quiet, distraction-free place to listen. Does God have something He wants you to know, perhaps an answer to a prayer? Listen to Him.

—Gerald Dierkes

Access Services, Falvey Library

What is God telling you?

THURSDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 14, 2024



I have a hoodie that says G.O.D.: Goals Over Distractions. Today's readings remind me of that sweatshirt. In Exodus, the "stiff-necked" Israelites are distracted by creating false gods in molten calves. They've forgotten who the true God is. In John, Jesus addresses people missing the true God right before them because they read scripture, but "the word does not remain" (JN 5:38) in them.

How do we forget the true God and miss God right in front of us? We have many distractions, but sometimes, our gifts from God can distract us from the original giver of the gift. Sometimes, our intense pursuit of goals based on what we saw as a calling from God can drift into one independent of our life in the Lord.

Are we working on a position, degree, tenure, job, achievement, relationship, or lifestyle without recognizing God's role in it? How can we make God our goal and focus above all distractions? May our Lenten practices continue to turn us to the Lord and keep our goals grounded in God.

—Calista Harden Smith '99 CLAS

When are we distracted from who God is and what God has done?

EX 32:7-14

PS 106:19-20,
21-22, 23

JN 5:31-47

"I will make of
you a great
nation"
(EX 32:10).

FRIDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 15, 2024



WIS 2:1a, 12-22

PS 34:17-18,
19-20, 21 and 23

JN 7:1-2, 10,
25-30

“The Lord is
close to
the broken-
hearted”
(PS 34:19).

The problem of the existence of evil is a puzzling enigma—how can evil exist in a universe that God made “good.” No one experienced the problem of evil so acutely as Job, the just and righteous man who was tested by God and experienced incredible tragedy. Despite God “allowing” Job to be tested by Satan, Job stood steadfast with God. However, and more importantly, God stood with Job throughout his tribulations and never abandoned him.

Our lives are full of turmoil. One does not have to look far to see the evil that permeates our world—war, gun violence, racism, homophobia, murder. Despite millennia of contemplation and prayer seeking an explanation for the problem of evil, we still do not have a semblance of an answer. What we do have is something far more important. We have the knowledge that God always walks with us through it all. How blessed are we to have God walk alongside us through this tumultuous life?

—Brian Emmert, MD, CLAS '15

How has God walked beside you in your Lenten journey?

SATURDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 16, 2024



Trust. As I read and reflected on these verses, I kept feeling my heart drawn to that word. God will never leave us astray. God is here for us always—if we open our minds and hearts. In God, we must always take refuge.

This is easier said than done, however. It is so easy for doubt and fear to take over. When we focus too much on the challenges around us, and forget the strength and love of the Almighty, we are lost.

Help us, O God, to trust in you always. Help us to remember that you always know the way for us, that you are always with us, and that you will never leave us astray. Help us, O God, to have the courage to open our hearts to your love, and to listen to your wisdom. Help us to have a generous heart, and to persevere in our search for you in our lives. Help us, O God, to trust.

—Christine Palus, PhD, Dean
Villanova University College of Professional Studies

How can I open my mind and heart to trust in God?

JER 11:18-20

PS 7:2-3,
9bc-10, 11-12

JN 7:40-53

“Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart” (LK 8:15).

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MEMORIAL OF ST. PATRICK

MARCH 17, 2024



JER 31:31-34

PS 51:3-4, 12-13,
14-15

HEB 5:7-9

JN 12:20-33

“Create a
clean heart
in me,
O God”
(PS 51:12).

Imagine asking to see Jesus, which ultimately prompts the prediction of His imminent death, announcing that it was His whole purpose. That’s a lot! This Sunday’s readings are shouting at us to seek Jesus too, so that we may be drawn to Him as the source of eternal salvation.

Jesus acts on our behalf, as the ‘Son of man,’ to establish the new covenant with God that Jeremiah describes in the first reading. He gave it all, for us, so that our relationship with God will be forever imprinted on our souls. Now, it is up to us to use this gift and love it.

Today we are given the opportunity for self-examination, taking note of what precludes us from embracing this gift and experiencing the authentic joy of seeking Jesus.

—Sarah Lucenko, CLAS '25

*How do I honor Jesus as the source of eternal salvation?
What prevents me from seeking Him and honoring Him?*

MONDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LEPT

MARCH 18, 2024



Susanna, although beautiful, from a fine family and married to a powerful man is powerless over the accusations of the elders and the judgement of the assembly. The adulterous woman is so powerless we are not given her name. Presented as her sin, she has no power over the accusation or outcome.

The elders in Susanna's story are powerless to their lust, the assembly is powerless to their desire for justice. The Pharisees in John's Gospel are powerless to their desire to condemn the woman and Jesus. These are dark stories.

Consolation comes from the Psalmist, reminding us that when we are powerless, the Lord is close. Susanna was saved by God through Daniel. The woman was saved by God through Jesus. When I pray this Psalm, I find peace as I know that absolutely nothing can come between me and the love of God.

—Susan Leighton '16 '22 VSB

Assistant Dean, Academic Programs, Villanova University
College of Professional Studies

When do I need to remember that God is beside me?

DN 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62
or 13:41c-62

PS 23:1-3a,
3b-4, 5, 6

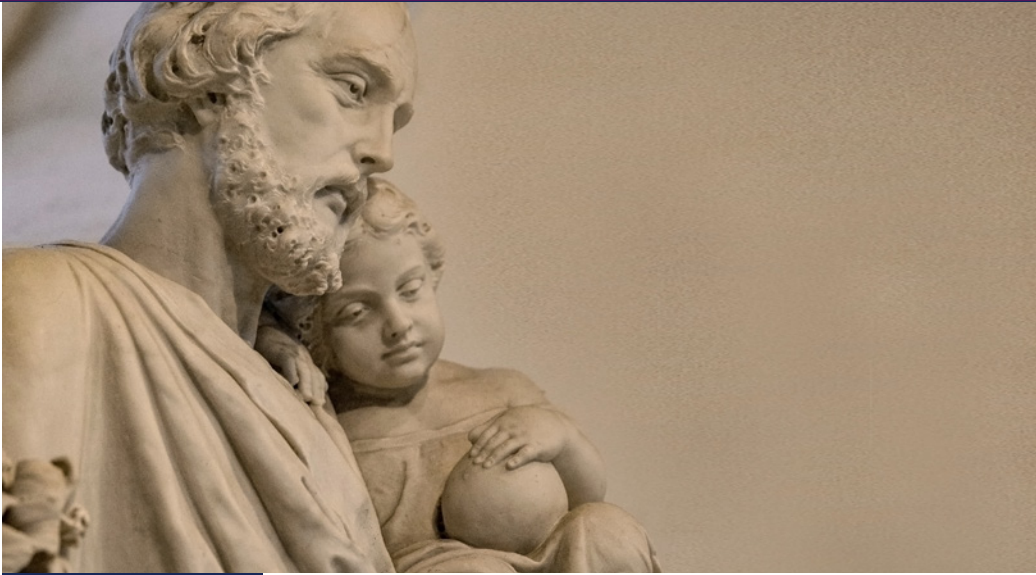
JN 8:1-11

"I fear no evil;
for you are at
my side"
(PS 23:4).

TUESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

MARCH 19, 2024



2 SM 7:4-5a,
12-14a, 16

PS 89:2-3, 4-5,
27 and 29

ROM 4:13,
16-18, 22

MT 1:16, 18-21,
24a

“The promises
of the LORD
I will sing
forever”
(PS 89:2).

Throughout the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, we learn of God making a promise and then fulfilling that promise. We see examples of this in all of today’s readings. In the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 89), David confirms God completed His promises to him. The second reading says that God completed His promises to Abraham. This demonstrates that our God is trustworthy. God comes through and fulfills the promise given us.

The Bible also consistently tells one of the ways God communicates with people: dreams. In the Gospel from Matthew, God came to Joseph in a dream and Joseph woke up and changed his mind on his commitment to Mary.

God does not always fulfill the promise in the way we want, or in the timeframe we want, but we always get more than we expected.

—Edward Hastings, PhD, '73 CLAS
Associate Teaching Professor, Theology

*How have you expressed your gratitude for
God’s faithfulness?*

WEDNESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 20, 2024



“**T**he truth will set you free” (JN 8:32). Today’s Gospel draws the connection between living in relationship with God and freedom. Jesus, who is the Word made Flesh, invites followers to “remain in [his] word” (JN 8:31). Jesus wants to transform us from slaves to sons. We are invited into a family. God wants you to make you family. Is there any greater, freer feeling than to be unconditionally loved? The disciples in the Gospel don’t see that they need freedom. However, the disciples in the first reading know they already possess it. Throw us into the furnace, they say, and whether or not we are saved, we know God is with us. And there it is—a fourth figure in the furnace, remaining with them in the fire. These disciples experience a resurrection when they emerge, a new life.

There is no fire God cannot walk through, no chains God cannot break, no sin God cannot heal.

—Sara Lutkewitte ’15 CLAS

Assistant Director of First Year Experience, Student Life

DN 3:14-20,
91-92, 95

DN 3:52, 53, 54,
55, 56

JN 8:31-42

“Blessed are
you in the
firmament of
heaven”
(DN 3:56).

When has God stood with you in the fire?

THURSDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LEPT

MARCH 21, 2024



GN 17:3-9

PS 105:4-5,
6-7, 8-9

JN 8:51-59

“You must
keep my
covenant
throughout
the ages”
(GN 17:9).

Old Testament stories can be hard to understand when read in small snippets. However, our connection to those stories is deeper than we realize.

Covenants play an important role in the story of salvation history, leading to the New Covenant. The second covenant between God and Abram is revealed in the first reading. God changes Abram’s name to Abraham, signifying that he’ll be the father of many nations. His wife, Sarah, despite her old age, gives birth to Isaac (GEN 21), fulfilling God’s prophecy.

The sacrifice that ratifies the New Covenant is the act of love in which Jesus died. The Eucharist is the permanent sign of this covenant. Jesus fulfills the covenant between God and Abraham by extending God’s grace to all nations.

By baptism “into Christ” we become children of Abraham (GAL 3:27-29). Through our belief in Jesus, we have a direct connection to the beginning of His genealogy.

—Matt Kirsch

Associate Director, Communication and Marketing
Office of the Provost

How does the story of your faith life link to the faith of your ancestors?

FRIDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

MARCH 22, 2024



Everyone has difficulties that they're dealing with—grief over the recent death of a loved one, distress regarding conflict at work, or feeling helpless about the state of the world to name just a few examples. In the first reading, Jeremiah is dealing with backlash to his ministry that puts his life in danger. He is confident that he will prevail because he is emboldened by the power of the Lord. Similarly, the psalmist is in great distress and calls on the Lord for strength. Like Jeremiah, the psalmist knows that the Lord is listening and will be a “shield”, a “horn of salvation”, and a “stronghold” (PS 18:3). In the Gospel, we see Jesus using his ministry to challenge the norms of his society. Like Jeremiah, he faces backlash that puts him in danger. Unlike Jeremiah and the psalmist, Jesus also has the support of people who are providing him with God's strength when they proclaim, “...everything John said about this man is true” (JN 10:41).

—Tia Noelle Pratt, PhD

Assistant Vice President of Mission Engagement
and Strategic Initiatives, Office for Mission and Ministry

Who are those who bring us God's strength in our time of need? How can we provide God's strength for others?

JER 20:10-13

PS 18:2-3a,
3bc-4, 5-6, 7

JN 10:31-42

Blessed are
the eyes that
see what
you see.
(LK 10:23)

SATURDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF LEPT

MARCH 23, 2024



EZ 37:21-28

JER 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13

JN 11:45-56

“There shall be one shepherd for them all”
(EZ 37:24)

Imagine yourself as “one of the Jews who came to Mary” (JN 11:19) to get closer to Jesus. Witness Jesus miracles as He made the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame walk. See Him raise people from the dead and drive out demons. Seek the guidance of the Pharisees, but they are too scared to recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s promise. Instead, they let fear rule them, convinced that killing Jesus is the best thing for their people. Fear often fills a void where trust should be, driving people to grasp rather than be led.

As always, we should take Jesus as our example. After this encounter, His disciples were worried that He would skip the Passover in Jerusalem because of His fear of the Jews. Tomorrow, we’ll see if Jesus will remain in hiding or trust His Father’s will.

What about you? Will you hide from participating in the Holy Triduum because you don’t want to ask your boss for some time off? Will you abstain from posting on social media or telling your friends and family who don’t believe Christ is Risen out of fear of their opinion? Be bold, like our Lord Jesus!

—Mike Salvemini '08

As we approach Holy Week, how will you enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus?

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

MARCH 24, 2024



There is so much written today about mindfulness, living in the moment, and living one day at a time. On his final visit to Jerusalem, Jesus was certainly mindful of the outcome of this journey. As he traveled through the city on a donkey, the crowds were heard cheering, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” (MK 11:9) as they laid palm branches along his path. SO much joy from everyone who was able to be there on this day. Imagine the feelings of that moment for all present who were grateful to experience this moment in time. Help us to treasure today in that same way. The paradox of the joy on that day, of course, was the sadness that would be coming soon as this was the last week of Jesus on earth, and yet Jesus is always with us now.

—Susan C. Slaninka RN, EdD, '69 FCN
Adjunct Professor of Nursing

IS 50:4-7

PS 22:8-9,
17-18, 19-20,
23-24

PHIL 2:6-11

MK 14:1-15:47

“Morning
after
morning
He opens
my ear that
I may hear”
(IS 50:4).

How do we celebrate Jesus in our midst?

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

MARCH 25, 2024



IS 42:1-7

PS 27:1, 2, 3,
13-14

JN 12:1-11

“My heart
will not fear”
(PS 27:3).

Throughout Holy Week, we are presented with an image consistent in each of the Gospels proclaimed daily, namely, the posture of “reclining at table.”

Encounters with Jesus often occurred at the table and around a meal. Table etiquette, who is at the table, where one sits, who is serving and being served—all of these are behaviors that Jesus confronts and inverts. Recall, too, that Jesus even literally turned tables on their side.

In today’s scene, Mary of Bethany lavishly anoints Jesus’ feet and dries them with her hair, in a moment so intimate with the Lord, yet a gesture that was criticized by Judas. Such vulnerability, however, takes us throughout this week and plays itself out on the hill of Calvary, where God’s own intimacy and vulnerability are revealed to the core and in its depth.

—The Rev. Kevin M. DePrinzio, OSA, PhD
Vice President, Mission and Ministry

In what ways are we being invited to recline at the table with the Lord this week? What might Jesus want to confront in us?

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

MARCH 26, 2024



I cannot help but relate to the fear and unease I imagine is in Peter's voice in today's readings as he asks Jesus, "Master, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you" (JN 13:37). He feels anxious at the thought of being separated from Jesus, knowing that there is an inevitable pain and grief in what is coming next, and wanting power over how it comes about. I believe we can all relate to this desire for control, to have all the answers even in suffering.

But we can't surrender to God's plan under our conditions. In today's readings, Jesus reminds us to listen. Not only does He have a plan for the glory and coming of the Kingdom, but from the moment we were formed in the womb, He named us as an essential part of that plan. We are His light! Let us find rest and refuge in Him in our times of uncertainty and despair.

—Cathy Nguyen '23 CLAS

During this holiest of weeks, think of a time when God has been your refuge in uncertainty. How are you God's light?

IS 49:1-6

PS 71:1-2,
3-4a, 5ab-6ab,
15 and 17

JN 13:21-33,
36-38

"I will make
you a light to
the nations"
(IS 49:6).

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

MARCH 27, 2024



IS 50:4-9a

PS 69:8-10,
21-22, 31 and
33-34

MT 26:14-25

“Lord, in your
great love,
answer me”
(PS 69:14).

On the Wednesday of Holy Week last year, I made two phone calls I will never forget: one to my childhood parish to request the Last Rites for my dad, and the next to inquire about hospice care in the event his health improved. We were blessed to have another six months with my dad. But that evening was the first of many, many conversations that I wasn't sure how to have.

The readings today tackle some very dark feelings, which are an inevitable part of the human condition: weariness, weakness, betrayal, despair. But the Scripture also promises that the Lord God is our help and in His great love, He will answer us. He gives us the words to speak, and the strength to carry on in situations we have never faced before. How often do I forget that all I need to do is seek Him? .

—Colleen Donnelly

Associate Director of University Publications

How has the Lord helped you in times of despair?

HOLY THURSDAY: EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | TRIDUUM

MARCH 28, 2024



As a young boy, I looked forward to the Triduum. Held from Holy Thursday evening to the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, the Triduum is one celebration over three days and commemorates Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. However, it took on special significance for me when I was 14. My father had been hospitalized for over seven months. Now bedridden, his health deteriorated to the point that doctors withheld treatments and sedated him, waiting for when he would pass. Due to the doctor's recommendation, families and friends had given up on him. But I kept hope alive and brought my hopes and prayers to the Triduum.

On Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper, I joined with others around the world in prayer. We mark the humility of Christ through the act of washing the disciples' feet. We commemorate the institution of the ministerial priesthood and of the Holy Eucharist. Christ begins the renewal of creation. Prayerfully entering this liturgy, I believed my father's health could also be renewed. Adoration commences at the end of this liturgy. In scripture, we read that Christ went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with his disciples and learn that he wept profusely (Luke 22:41-44) at the agony he experienced. I, too, felt great distress over my father's condition as I kept a grief-filled watch at Adoration, praying for my father, my sins, and the sins of the world.

EX 12:1-8, 11-14

PS 116:12-13,
15-16bc, 17-18

1 COR 11:23-26

JN 13:1-15

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION | TRIDUUM

MARCH 29, 2024

On Good Friday, the Day of Atonement, we commemorate the crucifixion and death of our Lord Jesus. On this day, God redeemed and restored the goodness of creation through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The day is held in a solemn atmosphere of grief, meditating on the Passion narrative and the cross's triumph. Late that night into Saturday morning, I kept vigil in a dark chapel, praying for my father and my family, pleading with God for my father's healing. At once, I felt a breeze, which initially gripped me in fear, but I remained still as I was convinced that God was with me. Amid this fear, a voice whispered within me, "It is finished." I was convinced my dad would be fine.

IS 52:13-53:12

PS 31:2, 6, 12-13,
15-16, 17, 25

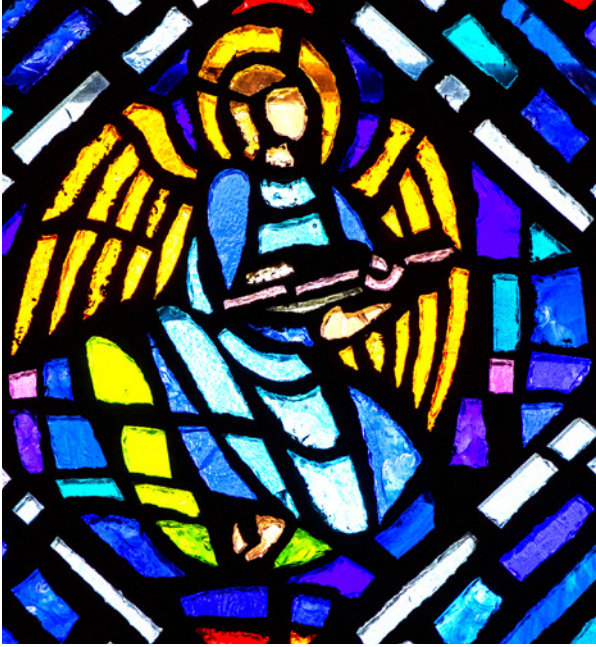
HEB 4:14-16;
5:7-9

JN 18:1—19:42



HOLY SATURDAY | TRIDUUM

MARCH 30, 2024



Holy Saturday brings the Easter Vigil celebration, a continuation of the liturgical celebration of Good Friday. It begins with candlelight at sunset, signifying Christ breaking the spell of darkness. The readings, the “Exultet” and the “Gloria” chants, are sounds of joy, victory, and life over death. We rejoice and praise God with a great Hallelujah for his magnificent work of redemption, the ultimate sovereignty of Christ over death, and the new life in Christ through baptism. My faith was enriched as we ended the Triduum with a blessing at the close of the Vigil. By Easter Sunday, for my siblings and I, it was indeed a resurrection day as my aunt called from the hospital to tell us that our dad woke up by himself in the early hours of the day and asked for food. I knew God did it.

Reading 1: GN 1:1–2:2

Psalm: PS 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35

Reading 2: GN 22:1-18

Psalm: PS 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

Reading 3: EX 14:15–15:1

Psalm: EX 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

Reading 4: IS 54:5-14

Psalm: PS 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Reading 5: IS 55:1-11

Psalm: IS 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Reading 6: BAR 3:9-15, 32--4:4

Psalm: PS 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Reading 7: EZ 36:16-17a, 18-28

Psalm: PS 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4

Epistle: ROM 6:3-11

Psalm: PS 118:1-2, 6-17, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 16:1-7

EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

MARCH 31, 2024

Attempt the Triduum this year. Immerse yourself meditatively in the experience and allow it to transform you. In my case, probably I needed my father's illness to discover the power of the cross (Matthew 16:24). Yet outside of a Church event, Triduum is a celebration of every one of us. At Triduum God reminds us of how he wants to see us reciprocate his kind gestures of self-emptying. The reenactment of the celebration calls us to rekindle our role of service to one another, exercise our priestly office received at baptism, and participate in breaking bread to feed the hungry. To crucify ourselves, we must put to death our ego and accommodate strangers. Let's proclaim the good news of Christ and the gospel of peace.

—Samuel Odidi '25 CLAS
Graduate Resident Minister



ACTS 10:34a,
37-43

PS 118:1-2, 16-17,
22-23.

COL 3:1-4

JN 20:1-9

