

Monday, March 29, 2020

- **Readings**

- Isaiah 42.1-7 *1st Oracle He will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street.*
- Psalm 27 *The Lord is my light and my salvation*
- John 12.1-11 *Leave her alone. She bought the perfume for the day of my burial.*



- **Reflection**

Jesus is so free from sin that he accepted the very expensive homage he received from Lazarus' sister: he was a friend of Lazarus and his sisters and could understand how grateful they felt for bringing their brother back to life. He was gracious in his attitude toward Mary and praised her act of love toward him. The fragrance of this beautiful act of gratitude, as it fills the whole house.

Yet, the reaction of others appears really depraved: now they decide not only to kill Jesus but Lazarus too, for he was proof that Jesus was really someone unique.

This scene is given to us in Holy Week. In a few days' time Jesus will die on a cross. We are given an insight into the minds of many people referred to in the story. Mary centers on Jesus and honours Him in an unusual way, letting us know how much she thinks of Him. Martha was catering for all the people there. Others come just to see Jesus and Lazarus. Judas criticizes the waste of the ointment. Jesus, aware of his forthcoming death, is completely composed and answers Judas.

As we go through Holy Week this year, one could say that this story tells of the many attitudes that still prevail among people. Pray that Jesus will be the central figure for you this week, in his wonderful expression of love. <https://www.sacredspace.ie>

- **Prayer**

Heavenly Father help us to choose the example of Mary and put your Son, Jesus at the center of our Holy Week as we commemorate his Last Supper, Passion and Resurrection. In Jesus name we pray, AMEN.

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

- **Readings**

- Isaiah 49.1-6 *2nd Oracle I will give you as a light to the nations. I did not hide my face from spitting.*
- Psalm 71 *I will sing of your salvation.*
- John 13.21-33, 36-38 *One of you will betray me; another will deny me three times.*

- **Reflection**

When Jesus tells his disciples that one of them would betray him, the disciples are horrified, and they look at one another in shock. They couldn't believe what Jesus was saying. They all loved Jesus. They not only were followers of Jesus; he also was their friend and mentor. None of them would betray him! But they begin to look at one another, asking themselves: Who could it be? All of them had left everything to follow this Jesus. Why did Jesus believe that one of them would betray him?

Have you ever been betrayed by a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbor? Betrayal is horrible! It is one of the most painful experiences in life, especially if the person who betrayed you was someone you loved and trusted, a person that you believed also cared about you.

Yet, Jesus was deadly serious. Imagine the emotions Jesus must have been experiencing, knowing that one of his loved ones would betray him. This knowledge must have broken Jesus' heart! Yet he was determined to do what he needed to do. He knew his Father was with him. This gave Jesus strength! At times in our lives, we too have been hurt, disappointed, perhaps betrayed by someone we loved. What a gift it is that we can turn to Jesus when we are broken by betrayal or deceit. No matter what we experience in life, Jesus has trod the path before us. He understands. He loves us and longs to walk with us! <http://ferdinandbenedictines.blogspot.com>

- **Prayer**

Heavenly Father help us to intentionally walk this path with Jesus. It is the very least we can do for our Savior and our God! We ask this through Christ, Our Lord, AMEN.

Wednesday, March 31, 2021



- **Readings**

- Isaiah 50.4-9a *3rd Oracle: I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.*
- Psalm 69 *Lord, in your great love, answer me.*
- Matthew 26.14-26 *The Son of Man goes as it is written of him. But woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.*

- **Reflection**

It's very important to note here that Jesus was "deeply troubled." This shows His humanity. Jesus had a human heart and loved Judas with a divine love through His human heart. As a result of this perfect love of Judas, Jesus' heart was deeply troubled. It was "troubled" in the sense that Jesus could do nothing more than He had already done to change the mind and heart of Judas. It's not that Jesus was personally offended or angered by Judas' betrayal. Rather, it's that Jesus' heart burned with a deep sorrow at the loss of Judas whom He loved with a perfect love.

Judas had free will. Without free will Judas could not freely love Jesus. But with free will, Judas chose to betray Jesus. The same is true with us. We have free will and we are given the same ability that Judas had to accept the love of Jesus or to reject it. We can let His loving gift of salvation and grace enter our lives or refuse it. It's 100% up to us.

Holy Week is an ideal time to seriously contemplate the road you are on. Each and every day of your life you are invited by God to choose Him with all your might and love. But, like Judas, we so often betray Him by our refusal to enter Holy Week with Jesus, embracing His Cross as ours. We so often fail to give completely of our lives in a sacrificial and generous way, as our Lord did that HolyWeek.

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com>

- **Prayer**

My dear suffering and rejected Lord, I do love You but I also know that I cause Your Heart to be troubled by my betrayal. Help me to see my sin honestly this Holy Week. In seeing it, may I let go of that which keeps me from loving You more deeply, so as to walk with You to the Cross to share in Your glorious triumph. Jesus, I trust in You.

Thursday, April 1, 2021

- **Readings**

- Exodus 12.1-8, 11-14 *These are the instructions for the Passover meal.*
- Psalm 116 *The cup of blessing that we bless is a sharing in the Blood of Christ.*
- 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 *As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*
- John 13.1-15 *Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*



- **Reflection**

Jesus knew the end was near. His hour had come to return to the Father. However, the glories of heaven were far from his mind in the upper room. Jesus knew that the next day would bring unimaginable suffering, sorrow, and separation.

But first he performed two far-reaching acts of love. Jesus humbly washed the feet of his surprised disciples, giving them and us a touching example of selfless service. Then he instituted a simple but extraordinary meal that would become a central part of our worship life.

These were only the prelude to his greatest act of love. On Calvary's cross. Jesus loved us to the bitter end, absorbing into himself all of our sin and guilt, so that we might live with him to our blessed end, when we will go to spend eternity with him. -Steadfast Love by Henry Nouwen

- **Prayer**

Blessed Redeemer, you gave me everything that you have so I might be yours, now and forever, AMEN.

Friday, April 2, 2021

- **Readings**

- Isaiah 52.13-53.12 *The servant of the Lord was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.*
- Psalm 31 *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*
- Hebrews 4.14-16; 4.7-9 *Christ learned obedience through what he suffered, and became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.*
- John 18.1-19.42 *The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- **Reflection**

As the Gospel story of Jesus' passion unfolds today, we witness the light of the world being led from one interrogator to another and finally condemned to a cruel death, by crucifixion. Drawn like Peter, we follow him who has also befriended us so completely. We are disturbed and inspired at the same time.

Read on every Good Friday, John the Evangelist's passion narrative portrays Jesus as completely in charge from beginning to end. Totally innocent, he embraces all humanity in our sinfulness and willingly accepts suffering and death to become an unmistakable sign of God's reconciliation and healing for a broken world. Through the shame and horror of it all, his cross becomes a beacon of hope stretching across all time.

Our celebration of Christ's passion unites us today with the ongoing passion of the world. Wherever there is violence and oppression, especially against the most vulnerable and the innocent — children, refugees, and those enslaved in human trafficking — the passion of Christ radiates God's steadfast love and hope to them.

Today let us unite our hearts to the divine heart of Christ in solidarity with all suffering peoples. As we journey in prayer and reflection on the mystery of his passion and death, we yearn for the day when, through Christ, all sin and suffering will come to an end in the triumph of his resurrection.-by Michael Traher <http://www.catholicdigest.com>

- **Prayer**

Father, you so loved us that you gave us your only Son. Thank you for this precious gift. Thank you for his sacrifice that I too often take for granted. Today, may I especially show my gratitude for this incredible sacrifice. May I live a life that honors you, AMEN.



Saturday, April 3, 2021

• **Readings**

- Genesis 1.1-2.2; *God saw that everything that he had made, and indeed it was good.*
- Psalm 104 *Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*
- Genesis 22.1-18; *The sacrifice of Abraham, our Father in faith.*
- Psalm 16 *Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*
- Exodus 14:15-31, 15:20, 1; *The children of Israel went forward into the sea on dry ground.*
- Exodus 15 *Let us sing to the Lord, he has covered himself in glory.*
- Isaiah 54:5-14 *With everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer*
- Psalm 30 *I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.*
- Isaiah 55:1-11 *Come to me, so that you may live, I will make with you an everlasting covenant.*
- Isaiah 12 *With the joy you will draw water from the wells of Salvation.*
- Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4.4; *Walk toward the shining of the Lord's light.*
- Psalm 19 *Lord, you have the words of eternal life.*
- Ezekiel 36:16-17, 18-28; *I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and a new heart I will give you.*
- Psalm 42/43 *As a deer longs for flowing streams, my soul longs for you, O God.*
- Romans 6:3-11 *Christ, raised from the dead, will never die again.*
- Mark 16:1-8 *Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified; he has been raised up.*



• **Reflection**

Today's reflection will lead us to the vigil of Easter. This night, communities from all over the world will gather in darkness, a darkness that represents all that we have been reflecting upon today. And there, in that darkness, a fire is lit. That flame is shared around the community until its light fills the room. Then, a *song of exultation* is sung, proclaiming that Christ is the light of this night. And, there, in the light of Christ, we will read the scriptures that prepare us to celebrate God's revelation. This is the story of our salvation - how God prepared to rescue us from the power of sin and death. The God who created us, who led a chosen people out of slavery, raised Jesus from death. We can rejoice that death has no final victory over us. We can celebrate our faith that we have been baptized into the death of Jesus, so that we might be baptized into his life.

As we behold the body of Jesus in the tomb today, and as we contemplate the mystery of our death, we prepare our hearts to receive the Good News of life. We know that tomb will be empty and remain empty forever as a sign that our lives will not really end, but only be transformed. One day, we will all rest in the embrace of Jesus, who knows our death, and who prepares a place for us in everlasting life. Our reflection on this Holy Saturday, and our anticipation of celebrating the gift of life tonight and tomorrow, can bring immense peace and joy, powerful freedom, and vitality to our lives. For if we truly believe that death holds no true power over us, we can walk each day in the grace being offered us - to give our lives away in love. -by Andy Alexander, S.J. <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu>

• **Prayer**

Father, there is a strange feeling today. Good Friday is over, but it is not yet Easter. I feel like I am stuck in the middle. Maybe the best thing to do is nothing. May I be quiet and still, longing for the great feast of Easter. Come, Lord Jesus, come, AMEN.



Sunday, April 4, 2021

- **Readings**

- Acts 10:34a, 37-43 *We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*
- Psalm 118 *This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad.*
- Colossians 3:1-4 *Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.*
- John 20:1-18 *According to the scripture: Jesus must rise from the dead.*

- **Reflection**

Imagine the pain that gripped the heart of Jesus's followers during the time of his passion and death. Imagine the transformation that occurred in their hearts when they heard that he was risen. After the initial shock, they were filled with incredible joy. The promise of Jesus that he would always be with them came true, and it was a promise that included us too! What happened to Jesus will also happen to us. We are all destined to pass through death to resurrected life because God wants our relationship with him to be without end. What depths of love! That is how important we are to God! – Fr Ken Grabner, C.S.C Notre Dame University, Indiana.

- **Prayer**

Jesus our hope, your loving presence rests in the heart of every person. May we find our unity with one another in the sharing of that love, AMEN.

