



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

March 2020

Lenten Spring House Cleaning

Carla Mae Streeter, OP

Wash the windows, wipe down the walls, air the carpets...we know the routine. For our homes, that is. But what about our souls? Lent means springtime, so how do we do a clean-up there?

I suggest you don't give up anything this Lent. Instead, restore something. Open the windows of your soul and let in the magnificent Light of the Son, within your deepest being since your baptism. That act, done for you by loving parents, filled you with a marvelous light energy, a magnetic field, you might say. You are, spiritually speaking, surrounded by a light-capsule, and that means you are off-limits to evil when it tries to penetrate your consciousness. Satan and his minions can be quite noisy, yes, but demoted angels can't penetrate this Son-light. It is made from blood, shed by an unbelievable Lover. Can we leave our Son-light? Oh, yes...and when we do we become easy prey. Seances, Ouija Board activity, intentional rejection of our baptism, etc. can leave us quite defenseless.

Instead, intentionally go home often during the day to the center of your dear soul this Lent. He waits for you there, in all the risen beauty of his (and your) transformed humanity. Sit with him and let him look his love into you. He puts on his apron, takes his basin, and the cleaning begins. He is a meticulous housekeeper. Not a speck of smelly egoism will escape his keen eye. You too, will become more conscious of it: blaming, shaming, complaining, whining, and rage are all evidence of a wounded ego.

Up your attention to the coming Lenten readings. They will give you instructions on how to help him houseclean. Do a little dance this Lent, and whistle while you work...!



Loving Lord,
Servant King,
My foot-washing God,
You sit me down in my little place in this world,
You would bid me receive your service?
But all within me protests – it is I who should serve.
No. There are times when the grime is so deep
only you can remove it.
I stand helpless with my band-aid when I need neurosurgery.
Houseclean my heart.
Amen.

Special thanks to S. Jean Ackerman for these reflections.

March 1 • First Sunday of Lent • Matthew 4: 1-11

“The Lord God shall you worship and God only will you serve.”

Christ Jesus invites us into the challenges found in Matthew’s gospel. Making good moral decisions as we consider our social, political and church issues call us into daily discernment. How will we discern God’s call during these forty days and throughout our life journeys?

March 8 • Second Sunday of Lent • Matthew 17: 1-9

“Rise and do not be afraid.”

As we contemplate the transfiguration that the disciples experience, may we find our mountain experiences with Christ to be transforming. The transfigured Christ is calling us as disciples in 2020. May every Eucharist be a mountain experience for us as we share and become the body of Christ. The living Christ transforms us daily. Risen Christ, it is so good to be here as your disciples at this time in history.

March 15 • Third Sunday of Lent • John 4: 5-42

“Jesus said to her, ‘The water I shall give will become a wellspring of water welling up to eternal life.’”

The conversation of Jesus with the Samaritan woman is a model for all of us as disciples of Christ. We too are called to spread this wellspring of the Spirit waters to all we meet, inclusively of every culture, gender and social class. The font of life springs up in us as we proclaim God’s Spirit: “He is the Messiah.”

March 22 • Fourth Sunday of Lent • John 9: 1-41

“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”

Consider the blindness in our own lives. How do we wash away the clay that we might see more clearly? May the blindness be healed with new insights into Christ’s invitation. The Light of Christ opens ever-new opportunities to see the Cosmic Christ in one another. Help us to see more clearly with our hearts during these Lenten days.

March 29 • Fifth Sunday of Lent • John 11: 1-45

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God.’”

As Jesus weeps with Mary and Martha, so he is very conscious of his own impending death. With an ever-growing faith, we weep today as disciples of Christ for the courage to speak truth to the injustices in our society. As we prepare for the Sacred Triduum, we travel into our evolving journey into the fullness of Resurrection.