



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee April 2026

The Point of it All

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

We've all wondered what the point of it all is...the pain, the suffering of innocent children, the loss of dear ones, and more, and we wonder why God doesn't just wipe it all out...now. Well, God will...at least that is the plan, but not until we learn and become all we can be through what we call the Paschal Mystery. What if the Resurrection, the fact that there is life after death...is the point of it all?

What would change if we did not fear death, but lived life preparing for the transformation it was getting us ready for? What would change if we were not afraid to die? If we knew we were going to be not only transformed, but transfigured? What if science proved that consciousness can exist without the physical body? What if we believed what religion tells us that the body is part of the change? Do we have a basis for believing any of this is possible...?

Well, maybe we'd temper the arms race. Maybe we'd talk more about using the money better. Maybe we'd spend more time on helping one another activate our gifts and skills. Maybe life would be focused on helping one another get ready. Just maybe.

Well, we do have a basis in science...check out near-death experiences. And religion has been telling us...and showing us...for some time. There is this Jesus who said, "Touch me, and see that I am not a ghost..."

Can I touch you, Jesus?

Will you take my hand?

I'm scared.

I want to believe this is your greatest revelation.

My scriptures tell me this is your greatest revelation.

Are you real, Jesus?

And is this really my story too?

Please make this the story for all of us...

Thank you to Associate Kathie Solie for this month's reflections.

**Easter Sunday | April 5, 2026 |
Colossians 3:1-4**

On the glorious morning that Easter is, we hear in this reading that our thoughts are not to be trapped in life on the earth. At this point in history, it is a welcome invitation. The Lenten practices and focus may now be behind us, but this call requires a change in focus. How often are we able to look beyond (above) the 'noise' of our world?



Second Sunday of Easter | April 12, 2026 | John 20: 19-31

The fascinating image of Jesus 'surprising' the disciples is quickly left behind, as the Scripture moves on to the story of the 'doubting Thomas.' The story is so familiar that it has evolved into a common expression, used for any case or situation of disbelief. We might want to look back at times we have doubted God's call or presence in our lives.

Third Sunday of Easter | April 19, 2026 | Luke 24:13-35

Jesus appeared to the disciples, walking down a road. They did not know who He was. What a mystery. How could they not know Him? As I stayed with that image, a 'light bulb' went off in my head. How often do I encounter Jesus in others, and not recognize and honor my Lord? I recall the verse, 'As often as you did this for others; you did it for me.' Let us ponder when we have 'missed' Jesus.

Fourth Sunday of Easter | April 26, 2026 | 1st Peter 20b-25

There is no 'softer, easier way' found in this passage. It offers guidance for living as a Christian. It calls us to imitate Jesus, to do as He did. Is this easy? Can I do it time after time? Can I follow the ways of Jesus, even with someone I find distasteful? Let us spend some time thinking of times we struggled to be as Jesus was.