



# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Racine Dominicans  
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee March 2025

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## *A Holy Lent* By Associate Carol Wesley

March ends Ordinary Time/the Sundays after Epiphany and begins the season of Lent.

At Ash Wednesday services, the Church bids us to a holy Lent in words such as these: "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (The Book of Common Prayer, 1978, p. 265).

I would suggest in light of the needs of our world in this particular time that we examine our lives in relation to our Baptismal Covenant, particularly in terms of those promises that direct us to love our neighbor as ourselves and respect the dignity of every human being. However, we need not despair because we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring God's light to this world – we know how this story ends: that death leads to resurrection, and darkness brings forth light. Perhaps, strengthened by the Spirit, we can have a hopeful Lent that leads us to holy action. Let us pray:

*"God bless you with a **restless discomfort** about easy answer, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you ay seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.*

*God bless you with **holy anger** at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you ay tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.*

*God bless you with the **gift of tears** to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you ay reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.*

*God bless you with **enough foolishness** to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done."*

-Adapted from a blessing written by Ruth Marlene Fox, OSB, of Sacred Heart Monastery, Richardton, North Dakota.

*Thank you to Associate Mare Wheeler for this month's reflections.*

**Sunday, March 2, 2025 |**

**Gospel of Luke 6: 39-45**

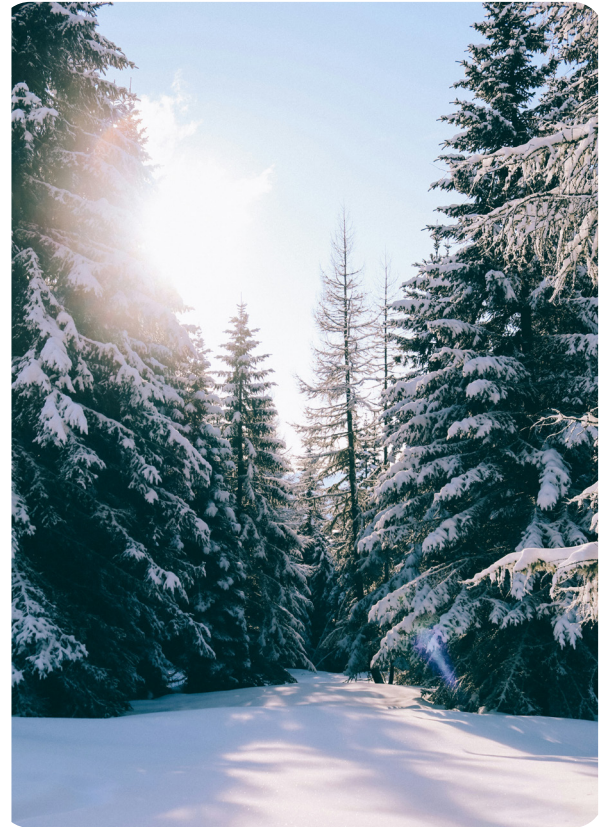
This Gospel asks, who is your teacher? What is the product of your learning? Who have you become? How can we ever answer those questions?

Dare to pray this prayer this week: "Holy One, show me what You had in mind for me from the beginning, and where You want me now."

**Sunday, March 9, 2025 |**

**Gospel of Luke 4: 1-13**

Forty days in the desert might sound more like a relentless mountain climb, at least to some. We come, hopeful, expectant. Like Jesus, I begin these forty days "filled with the Holy Spirit," about my intentions and commitment. How will that commitment stand up to my fatigue, my hectic schedule, and the news?



**Sunday, March 16, 2025. | Gospel of Luke 9: 28-36**

The Transfiguration is about a miraculous phenomenon which the apostles wanted to analyze or memorialize. The memo to them from "the cloud" was to pay attention in silence to the greater message. This week, take some time in silent contemplation to listen to what God is saying. Don't interrupt.

**Sunday, March 23, 2025 | Gospel of Luke 13: 1-9**

We deeply desire to live a life with purpose, a deeply tended life that makes a difference. We want the tree of our life to be quickly productive, beautiful, planted in Miracle-Gro soil. However, grand gestures are not the proof of a great life. What one small difference can I make today in the life of another? In my own life?

**Sunday, March 30, 2025 | Gospel of Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32**

In this story, who is the prodigal? The younger brother who wastes his father's legacy and returns repentant? The elder brother who is steadfastly loyal and returns angry? In which of our own relationships do we find ourselves feeling humbled? Judgmental? Envious? Can we put ourselves into this parable with our own relationships and ask for God's healing?