



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

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The One Necessary Thing

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

Sometimes Lent can be quite noisy: daylight savings time clicks in, summer sports teams get active, needs on the news continue to be overwhelming, the president puts out his budget, and I keep trying to keep true to my Lenten practices. But, what's it all for? Why am I doing all these things?

Thomas Merton wrote some time ago:

“At the center of my being is a point of pure nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us.” (Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander, New York: Doubleday, 1966:142)

Maybe, just maybe, I should begin each of the remaining days of Lent just going there, just sitting there. “...the pure glory of God in us.” This means deeper than all the sin I find...this means going to the spot where God and I are joined. This is the place of the promise. This is where my own resurrection comes from. It is growing already in me, and just waiting for me to help it along, or at least get out of its way. The one thing necessary is the truth...of who I am, and who God is. Jesus is this God-joined-to-me eastering in me...

I so often forget.

I need a daily reminder.

Teach me again and yet again...

Today in the midst of the human struggle

You are eastering in me.



Thank you to S. Fran Hoffman for this month's reflections.

April 2, 2023 | Palm Sunday | Matt 21: 1-11

Jesus makes a triumphant entry into Jerusalem. But within minutes we witness His betrayal by a disciple, the crowd's call for His death, and a friend's words of denial. We are plunged into the account of His suffering and death. It is a portrayal of unconditional love.

We say, "Thank you, Jesus!" As we contemplate what He has done for us we ask ourselves, "How great is MY love?"

April 9, 2023 | Easter Sunday | John 20: 1-9

John races to the tomb, bends down, and sees the burial clothes, the only remnant of his Beloved Lord. John simply believes that Jesus has risen. But Peter seems confused and bewildered. Do we often consider unexpected happenings or unforeseen results as moments of crisis? Or do we have the confident faith of John that Jesus is with us still and will be our Strength through difficulty?

April 16, 2023 | Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) Acts 2: 42-47

We get a glimpse of the early Christian community. "They devoted themselves to the communal life, to the breaking of bread, to prayers, to holding all things in common, to selling their possessions and sharing the proceeds among all according to their need." Do

I contribute my gifts for the common good? How is my prayer life? Do I engage in courageous conversations? Do I further the relationship of Sisters and Associates? Do I advocate for justice for marginalized people?

April 23, 2023 | Third Sunday of Easter | Luke 24: 13-35

There is something endearing about Jesus seen by the two disciples as a stranger who only is recognized in the breaking of the bread. The disciples reflect on how their hearts burned as He opened the Scriptures for them. To quote Pope Francis, "Do we know how to recognize the light of God's love in our lives? Do we recognize it with joy and gratitude on the faces of the people who love us? Do we look around us for the signs of the light that fills our hearts and open them to love and service?"

April 30, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Easter | John 10: 1-10

Jesus tells us that He is both the gate for the sheepfold and the shepherd. The sheep follow the shepherd's voice because they know that only He has their best interests at heart. What must we do to recognize the Shepherd's voice more easily? Are we following through the gate?

Do we trust that no matter what happens, He has prepared abundant life for us?