



Racine Dominicans  
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

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

*Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee*

*March 2022*

## *Take Up Your Cross*

Lent is upon us. I don't know about you, but I look at others carrying huge crosses, and wonder how I got skipped. At this time in my life at least, I don't suffer from a deadly disease that just isn't going away, or not having a roof over my head, or enduring daily injustice because of the color of my skin. Am I alone in wondering about how I am to take up my Cross?

Then it dawned on me that I might be missing what is right before my eyes. Maybe just being human is my cross. Some days it's pretty heavy. My car door is frozen shut, and no amount of coaxing is going to unfreeze it so I can get to church. I wake up and just don't have any energy today. Cramps in my legs kept me up half the night...I need to get a haircut...will have to wear my mask...and on and on. Nothing big, nothing momentous, just being human...and chaffing at its heaviness.

The time after Christmas is like a light-beam shining on all the nooks and crannies of my soul. I blink often. All the little things of my little 'hidden life' come into view. Then comes Lent. It's the time of spring house-cleaning of the soul. I stare at this Wild Lover 'running' toward the cross and wonder if he is out of his mind. But he is inviting me to 'run' with him...to actually choose my limited humanness, to bear it, grasp it, be bound to it as his infant swaddling bands wrapped him 'round about. It is reaffirming my baptismal 'yes,' my going down into death with him, isn't it...my 'yes' to all that weighs me down, all that is imperfect, all that is unfinished and waits with all my unfulfilled dreams.

Nailed hands, feet fixed in place...his Body speaks when his mouth is still. I can't do what I want to do, I can't go where I want to go. Say 'yes' and embrace it...? That ol' dead tree weighing me down bursts into bloom, and becomes a Tree of Life. Surprise! That's how the story ends.

*Are you out of your mind...  
or just wild in-love?  
Arms stretched wide...  
to embrace all the mess...  
me included.  
Feet pinned down  
so you can't even search me out...  
so I have to come to you.  
And when I look you become my mirror  
and there I am.*



## Thank you to S. Carol Wester for the March Reflections.

### March 6, 2022 | First Sunday of Lent

**Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13**

It's Lent, time to give up acknowledgment to all peoples. Our readings today remind us that God's message is meant for all peoples. Beginning in Deuteronomy we hear "My father was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt" and in Romans Paul tells us "there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all." What could be clearer than Paul's proclamation? From its origin Christianity is for all people no matter what titles be put on them.

### March 13, 2022 | Second Sunday of Lent

**Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36**

It's Lent, time to give up thanks to the giver of all for the land we have, our Mother Earth. From some of the earliest stories in Scripture we hear, "I am the Lord who brought you up from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession...to your descendants I give this land." And Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray; land to possess but land to use for many purposes—on which to pray, "to stand firm," "to be the foundation when the sun had set and it was dark." We give evidence of our thankfulness for the land when we use it carefully and do not harm or misuse it. How do I give thanks for Mother Earth?

### March 20, 2022 | Third Sunday of Lent

**Exodus 3:1-8a; Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9**

It's Lent, time to give up your appreciation for the gift of repentance and the opportunity to start anew. In today's gospel we hear "If you do not repent you will perish" and the barren fig tree was given a chance to "bear fruit in the future." In our daily lives in which we meet and interact with others we are given numerous opportunities to judge, to find fault, to say or think disagreeable things and then we have numerous opportunities to repent. We can start over and react differently the next time we are faced with the same challenges. If repentance was the end and we were given no change to do differently next time, our life would be stale and fruitless. God does know best and we benefit as a result.

### March 27, 2022 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Joshua 5: 9a, 10-12; Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

It's Lent, time to give up love which is limitless, which has no boundaries. The story of the prodigal son is familiar to us and one in which we often reflect on the generous gift of forgiveness the father bestows on his son. Today we are invited to reflect on the groundless gift of love the father bestows on both of his sons, regardless of their past actions. The love of the father for his sons is not based on their actions but on the very fact of their being his sons. So, too, our loving God bestows love on each one of us simply because we are. Actions are not the trigger for love, but being is that igniting force. As we encounter others, may the fact of their existence, their being, ignite the fullness and limitless action of our love.