



Racine Dominicans  
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

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

*Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee March 2024*

## *The Seven Signs*

*By S. Carla Mae Streeter*

February ended this year with the Prelude to the Paschal Mystery: The temptations and transfiguration. We are shown the reality of the trials of life and the transformation of the human that they bring about. Now, with March, the Drama begins. Yes it is the Year of Mark, but for the two central mysteries, the Incarnation and the Resurrection, the Church leads us to the Johannine text. Why? Ever wonder why John is not in the cycle of gospel writers? He's not, because his text is used every year.

John presents to us the Beloved Disciple. Himself? Ourselves? Perhaps both. Ordinary Time is always a formation in discipleship. The time of the Paschal Mystery is for Lovers. The disciple cannot grasp the meaning of the cross without the lens of Love. John, the beloved disciple presents us with seven signs of a magnificent obsession with the Incarnate Word. They present us, beloved by proxy, with an intimate Lover's view of what we discover when we answer the invitation to "Come and see..." voiced at the beginning of John's Gospel. Watch now as these seven signs unfold in the readings of the remaining four Sundays of Lent.

What are we watching for? The Christmas season presented us the Bridegroom who has married our flesh. Now the six remaining signs follow: The Christ as Living Water, as Light of the World, as Bread from heaven, as Good Shepherd, as Lamb of God, and as Resurrection and Life. Watch for them...they will not be in this order... but they will be there as we come to Easter...!

*Come and see?*

*Me...the Beloved Disciple?*

*Show Yourself to me...*

*Word-in-my-flesh...*



*Thank you to S. Kathy Slesar for this month's reflections.*

### **3rd Sunday of Lent | March 3, 2024**

Responsorial: Lord You have the Words of Everlasting Life. In Exodus (20: 1- 17) we hear the commandments along with a reminder that the Lord has the words of everlasting life.

God's laws offer us a way to live. We are called to loving obedience. What words of God help you to respond in loving obedience? What laws help you to respond lovingly to those around you?

### **4th Sunday of Lent | March 10, 2024**

John 3: 16 "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." This Scripture verse is often quoted, used in bumper stickers that simply say John 3:16, and displayed on posters at various events. What convinces you of God's love for you? How would you describe eternal life?

### **5th Sunday of Lent | March 17, 2024**

In Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34, God says "I will be their God and they shall be my people." We belong to God. How do you experience belonging to God? God adds, "I will forgive their evil doing and remember their sin no more." We are loved and forgiven. How do you celebrate God's love and God's forgiveness?

### **Palm Sunday | March 24, 2024**

Psalms 22 Mark 14: 1 – 15: 41. Holy Week begins and today's readings are filled with a wide range of emotions and events. We hear "The Lord God is my help" right before Psalm 22- "My God, My God why have you abandoned me?" At times we too may wonder if God is still our help. Then in Mark's Passion there are shouts of "Hosanna," followed later by shouts to "Crucify him." It is not easy to follow Christ and remain with him. What experience of Holy Week touches your heart? What helps you to stay with Jesus, even when he is being crucified? What gives you hope in the midst of great sorrow?

### **Easter Sunday | March 31, 2024**

Gospel John 20: 1 – 9. Though it initially seemed that Christ had died, we know that "He is risen!" Let us rejoice and be glad! Imagine how startled Mary Magdalene and the apostles were to discover the tomb was empty. It took time for them to grasp what resurrection meant and come to believe that Jesus was indeed risen. Who has helped you believe in resurrection? In what ways do you share your belief in Jesus' resurrection with others?