

Evensong for Peace ~ Third Week of Lent ~ March 17, 2020

Leader: Good evening and welcome.

During our Prayer for this Third Week of Lent we recall how Lent is seen as the springtime of the Church, a time for us to open ourselves up to God and seek new growth for ourselves and others through prayer, fasting and almsgiving; we especially remember the Elect who are preparing to enter the Church during the Easter Vigil. We will use the third verse of “Jerusalem my Destiny” which follows the theme of Sundays gospel.

We will again focus on our personal growth as we center upon the same gospel more closely - the unique encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. It is rather long, even the shortened form. I’d like to suggest that as we listen we pay particular attentive to the element of dialogue between 2 strangers so that as we meditate we can glean more about the importance of significant dialogue in our lives and ministry.

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny*

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem, my destiny!
Though I cannot see the end for me, I cannot turn away.
We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our destiny.
Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one.

v.3 In my thirst, you let me drink the waters of your life.
Here among you I have met the Savior, Jesus Christ.

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[for those praying alone, here is a YouTube link to the song:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>]

Leader: Gospel of John (Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42 shortened form)

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,
near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
Jacob’s well was there.
Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.
It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.
Jesus said to her,
“Give me a drink.”
His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.
The Samaritan woman said to him,
“How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?”
—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—
Jesus answered and said to her,
“If you knew the gift of God
and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’
you would have asked him
and he would have given you living water.”

The woman said to him,
“Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep;
where then can you get this living water?
Are you greater than our father Jacob,
who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself
with his children and his flocks?”
Jesus answered and said to her,
“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;
but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”
The woman said to him,
“Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water.

“I can see that you are a prophet.
Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;
but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”
Jesus said to her,
“Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You people worship what you do not understand;
we worship what we understand,
because salvation is from the Jews.
But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;
and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.
God is Spirit, and those who worship him
must worship in Spirit and truth.”
The woman said to him,
“I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;
when he comes, he will tell us everything.”
Jesus said to her,
“I am he, the one who is speaking with you.”
Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him.
When the Samaritans came to him,
they invited him to stay with them;
and he stayed there two days.
Many more began to believe in him because of his word,
and they said to the woman,
“We no longer believe because of your word;
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”

Silent Reflection (*5 minutes*)

Gong

Leader: Reflective Reading

We need to admit the generalized tendency to consider people as “Strangers” - those who are new to a particular place or company, those who appear to be unaccustomed or unacquainted or even ignorant – or who look, speak or dress differently than they, because they consider themselves the “norm around here”. This only places more and more barriers. We’ve all had these experiences ourselves – I know I have.

This passage all began with thirst. In order to focus more on what happens in the dialogue, let us set aside other information about the scene, and try to see what happens as Jesus and the Samaritan woman “Converse about the Wellspring Within.” Please read the reflection presented by Mary M. McGlone in NCR, and think about the questions she presents at the end:

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/spirituality/scripture-life/third-sunday-lent-we-thirst>

Silent Reflection (10-12 minutes)

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny, verse 3* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>

Leader: Please stand for the intercessions.

Response: “Gracious Lord, hear us we pray.”

- That we continue to remember that our thirst is a gift from God waiting for us at the well, we pray...
- That we and all believers approach and engage with the stranger and outcast with loving care and concern, we pray...
- That we become instruments for others to satisfy their own thirsts, and to enjoy the gifts Jesus offers them, we pray...
- Your intentions. ... We pray...

All: Our Father ...

... For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Remember, our thirst is a gift from the God waiting for us at the well.

Sign of Peace



Adrian Dominican Sisters

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Evensong for Peace ~ Fourth Week of Lent ~ March 24, 2020

Leader: Welcome and Introduction

Good evening and welcome to our Evensong for Peace this Fourth Week of Lent.

Lent has been often understood as a time of repentance and penance. However, the liturgical readings of the season call us to reflect on the goodness of God and the blessings that flow from God's goodness into our lives. The readings of the Fourth week of Lent focus the believing community on the hope that faith in the Christ can bring. The gospel for the fourth Sunday is about seeing, not so much physical seeing, although the gospel recounts the story of Jesus curing the man born blind. But rather seeing much deeper, seeing another's viewpoint, entering into another's culture or belief system. With that deeper seeing one becomes more inclusive and widens our tent of acceptance.

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny*

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem, my destiny!
Though I cannot see the end for me, I cannot turn away.
We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our destiny.
Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one.

v.4 All the worlds I have not seen you open to my view.
Here among you I have found a vision, bright and new.

Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. • Music reprinted under OneLicense-A-707295

[for those praying alone, here is a YouTube link to the song:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>]

Leader: Gospel of John (9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38, shortened form)

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes,
and said to him,
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” — which means Sent —.
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
“Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?”
Some said, “It is,”
but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”
He said, “I am.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
He said to them,
“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”
So some of the Pharisees said,
“This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the sabbath.”

But others said,
“How can a sinful man do such signs?”
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
“What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?”
He said, “He is a prophet.”

They answered and said to him,
“You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?”
Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
He answered and said,
“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”
Jesus said to him,
“You have seen him, and
the one speaking with you is he.”
He said,
“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

Silent Reflection (5 minutes)

Gong

Leader: Reflective Reading

For the reflection on the Gospel, I would like to borrow from Mary M. McGlone who writes for the NCR. Please read the first section of her reflection on the blind man.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/spirituality/scripture-life/fourth-sunday-lent>

“Never, ever, has anyone healed someone born blind! How could he do it without God’s help?”

Silent Reflection (10-12 minutes)

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny, verse 4* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>

Leader: Please stand for the intercessions.

[Leader prepares three intercessions, then invites the congregation to offer their own.]

Response: “Gracious Lord, hear us we pray.”

All: Our Father ...

... For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sign of Peace



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Evensong for Peace ~ Fifth Week of Lent ~ March 31, 2020

Leader: Welcome and Introduction

Good evening and welcome to our Evensong for Peace this Fifth Week of Lent.

Deepening our life of faith and our desire to follow Jesus in Mission and Ministry is the theme for this fifth week of Lent. To follow Jesus means being willing to risk everything for love of Him. In the readings from Sunday, we are reminded that:

Death is the fate of all human beings. As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. ... We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and communities. (Diane Bergant, with Richard Fragomeni, *Preaching the New Lectionary: Year A*)

Or will we accept the new life that God offers us through Jesus Christ?

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny*

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem, my destiny!
Though I cannot see the end for me, I cannot turn away.
We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our destiny.
Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one.

v.5 To the tombs I went to mourn the hope I thought was gone.
Here among you I awoke to unexpected dawn..

Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. • Music reprinted under OneLicense-A-707295

[for those praying alone, here is a YouTube link to the song:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>]

Leader: Gospel of John (11:1-45)

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil
and dried his feet with her hair;
it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.

So the sisters sent word to him saying,
“Master, the one you love is ill.”
When Jesus heard this he said,
“This illness is not to end in death,
but is for the glory of God,
that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So when he heard that he was ill,
he remained for two days in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to his disciples,
“Let us go back to Judea.”
The disciples said to him,
“Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you,
and you want to go back there?”
Jesus answered,
“Are there not twelve hours in a day?
If one walks during the day, he does not stumble,
because he sees the light of this world.
But if one walks at night, he stumbles,
because the light is not in him.”
He said this, and then told them,
“Our friend Lazarus is asleep,
but I am going to awaken him.”
So the disciples said to him,
“Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.”
But Jesus was talking about his death,
while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep.
So then Jesus said to them clearly,
“Lazarus has died.
And I am glad for you that I was not there,
that you may believe.
Let us go to him.”
So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples,
“Let us also go to die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus
had already been in the tomb for four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.
And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to comfort them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went to meet him;
but Mary sat at home.
Martha said to Jesus,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,
God will give you.”
Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise.”
Martha said to him,
“I know he will rise,
in the resurrection on the last day.”
Jesus told her,
“I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?”
She said to him, “Yes, Lord.
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,

the one who is coming into the world.”

When she had said this,
she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying,
“The teacher is here and is asking for you.”

As soon as she heard this,
she rose quickly and went to him.

For Jesus had not yet come into the village,
but was still where Martha had met him.

So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her
saw Mary get up quickly and go out,
they followed her,

presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him,
she fell at his feet and said to him,

“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping,
he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said,

“Where have you laid him?”

They said to him, “Sir, come and see.”

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.”

But some of them said,

“Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man
have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him,

“Lord, by now there will be a stench;
he has been dead for four days.”

Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you that if you believe
you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

“Father, I thank you for hearing me.

I know that you always hear me;

but because of the crowd here I have said this,
that they may believe that you sent me.”

And when he had said this,

He cried out in a loud voice,

“Lazarus, come out!”

The dead man came out,

tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to them,

“Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Silent Reflection (5 minutes)

Gong

Leader: Reflective Reading

For the reflection on the Gospel, please read the reflection written by Ron Rolheiser, OMI, on the *Blue Eyed Ennis* blog. Scroll down the page to find the reflection, which is below the reading and artwork.

<https://blueyedennis-siempre.blogspot.com/2011/04/fifth-sunday-lent-2011-raising-of.html>

Silent Reflection (10-12 minutes)

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny*, verse 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>

Leader: Please stand for the intercessions.

[Leader prepares three intercessions, then invites the congregation to offer their own.]

Response: "Gracious Lord, hear us we pray."

All: Our Father ...

... For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sign of Peace



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Evensong for Peace ~ Palm Sunday ~ April 7, 2020

Leader: Welcome and Introduction

Good evening and welcome to our Evensong for Peace for Palm Sunday.

By Diane Bergant, *Preaching the New Lectionary: Year A*

On Sunday, we celebrated Palm/Passion Sunday. We go from Jesus being acclaimed king so triumphantly to his execution as a state criminal. Both the great parade with the donkey, all the people shouting hosannas and waving palms, and also the sham trial, the mockery of justice, and the act of capital punishment. Perhaps as we move through this holy week, we might reflect on the significance of Jesus in our lives. We look at him as Savior, but what kind of Savior is he? We find that he has taken the form of a slave and he has been glorified with a name above all names, yet he continues to suffer with us. So, whether we describe it as the last Sunday of Lent or the prelude to Easter, this is a time rich with meaning and presence.

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny*

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem, my destiny!

Though I cannot see the end for me, I cannot turn away.

We have set our hearts for the way; this journey is our destiny.

Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one.

- v.1 Other spirits, lesser gods, have courted me with lies.
Here among you I have found a truth which bids me rise.

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[for those praying alone, here is a YouTube link to the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>]

Leader: Gospel of Matthew (21:1-11)

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives,

Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

“Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her.

Untie them and bring them here to me.

And if anyone should say anything to you, reply,

‘The master has need of them.’

Then he will send them at once.”

This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

Say to daughter Zion,

“Behold, your king comes to you,

meekest and riding on an ass,

and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.

They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them,
and he sat upon them.
The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road,
while others cut branches from the trees
and strewed them on the road.
The crowds preceding him and those following
kept crying out and saying:
“Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest.”
And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?”
And the crowds replied,
“This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Silent Reflection (*5 minutes*)

Gong

Leader: Reflective Reading

By Diane Bergant, Preaching the New Lectionary

In the introduction, the question was asked, what kind of Savior is Jesus? In the readings for Palm/Passion Sunday, Jesus is both the highly exalted Savior and the self-emptying Savior. But Jesus is also the Savior who first offered himself and then continues to offer himself as an example for us to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter this Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalized; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will.

If we are to be saved we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where our despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy neglected; whatever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.

Silent Reflection (*10-12 minutes*)

Gong

Song: *Jerusalem My Destiny, verse 1* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQLRiq4Vq-g>

Leader: Please stand for the intercessions.

[Leader prepares three intercessions, then invites the congregation to offer their own.]

Response: “Gracious Lord, hear us we pray.”

All: Our Father ...

... For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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