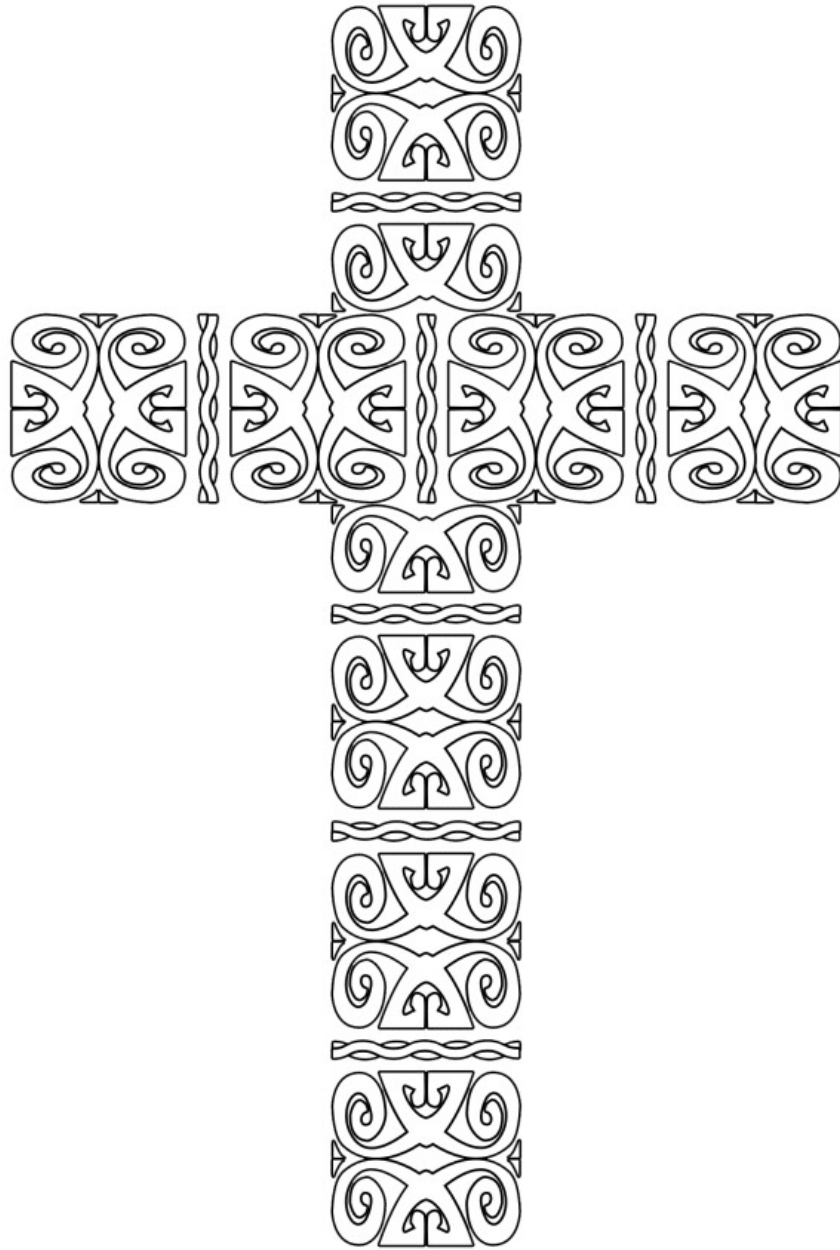


A Contemplative Lent



For the year 2021

Instructions for using this booklet

Our worship series for Lent is entitled “Listen.” In worship across these weeks, we will learn and experience contemplative practices that our faith ancestors have developed for us. I have also curated a variety of resources for you to use during the week, if you so choose.

What follows are six sections filled with Scripture and readings from a variety of sources¹. You’ll find a reading for each day of Lent, plus a word of poetry or wisdom. I encourage you to take your time with the reading – get into a comfortable space, light a candle, practice slow breathing. Read, reflect, meditate, and listen to the text and the spaces in between.

If you are someone who likes to journal, there’s space on each page for you to do so. You’ll notice that each week is headed with a black and white mandala. If you are someone who likes having something to *do* while you contemplate, read your verse for the day, then turn to the coloring page and color as you contemplate.

In whatever ways you find meaning, may your Lenten journey be blessed by the company of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

-Pastor Sharon

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline *From The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season, converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

¹ Every quote from non-Scriptural sources is in its original text. Where authors used exclusively masculine terms, I have chosen not alter their words to be gender-inclusive.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Matthew 6:1, 5- 6 (New International Version)

[Jesus said to the crowd]

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven...And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

From Jan Richardson ***Circle of Grace***

Return

Remember.
You were built for this,
the ancient path
inscribed upon your bones,
the persistent pattern
echoing in your heartbeat.

Let this be the season
you turn your face
toward the One
who calls to you:

Return, return.

Let this be the day
you open wide your arms
to the wind that knows
how to bear you
home.

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Psalm 1: 1- 3 (Contemporary English Version)

The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice, doesn't stand on the road of sinners, and doesn't sit with the disrespectful. Instead of doing those things, these persons love the LORD's Instruction, and they recite God's Instruction day and night! They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don't fade. Whatever they do succeeds.

Teresa of Avila from ***The Book of Her Life***, Chapter 11

The beginner must realize that in order to give delight to the Lord he is starting to cultivate a garden on very barren soil, full of abominable weeds. His Majesty pulls up the weeds and plants good soil. Now let us keep in mind that all of this is already done by the time a soul is determined to practice prayer and has begun to make use of it. And with the help of God we must strive like good gardeners to get these plants to grow and take pains to water them so that they don't wither but come to bud and flower and give forth a most pleasant fragrance to provide refreshment for this Lord of ours. Then He will often come to take delight in this garden and find His joy among these virtues.

Friday, February 19, 2021

Psalm 15: 1 - 5 (New International Version)

LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Richard Rohr, ***Silent Compassion*** on Finding God in the Depths of Silence

Silence, if you respond to a little bit of it, sort of hides. But if you remain open, then it reveals more...so be patient with silence. It gives a little, and then it gives more if you do not abuse the first little. It is like floating in water, once you stop fighting it, you float even better. Leave the silence open-ended. Do not try to settle the dust. Do not try to resolve the inner conflict. Do not seek a glib, quick answer, but leave all things for a while in the silent space. Do not rush to judgement This is what it really means that God alone is the judge. Inner silence frees you from the burden of thinking that your judgment is needed or important.

Saturday, February 20, 2021

Matthew 9: 10 – 13 (New International Version)

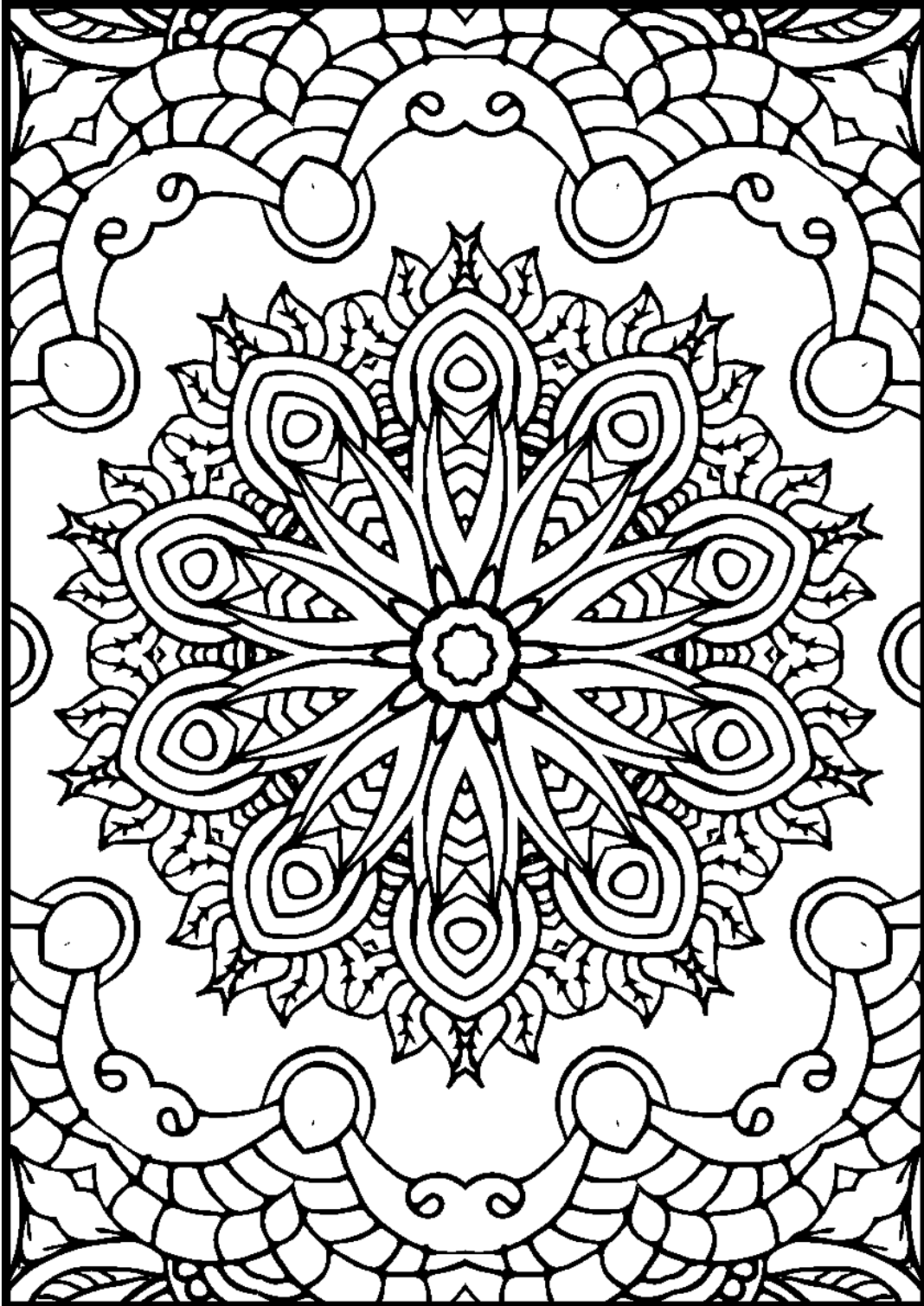
While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom

I was traveling by train to Darjeeling when I heard the voice of God. I was sure it was God's voice. I was certain he was calling me. The message was clear. I must leave the convent to help the poor by living among them. This was a command, something to be done, something definite. The call was something between God and me. What matters is that God calls each of us in a different way. In those difficult, dramatic days I was certain that this was God's doing and not mine and I am still certain. And it was the work of God. I knew that the world would benefit from it.

Lent 1



Sunday, February 21, 2021

Mark 1: 14 – 15 (New International Version)

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

From ***Writings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers***

Amma Syncletica said, “Imitate the publican, and you shall not be condemned with the Pharisee. Choose the meekness of Moses and you will find your heart that is a rock changed into a spring of water.”

Monday, February 22, 2021

Isaiah 9:2. (New International Version)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Theophane the Monk, ***Tales of a Magic Monastery***

The Original Sound

I asked an old monk, "How long have you been here?"

"Forever," he answered.

I smiled. "Fifty years, Father?"

"Forever."

"Did you know St. Benedict?"

"We are novices together."

"Did you know Jesus?"

"He and I converse every day."

I threw away my sly smile, fell to my knees, and clutched his hand. "Father," I whispered, "Did you hear the original sound?"

"I am listening to the original sound."

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

John 1: 1 – 5 (New International Version)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

From ***Wisdom of the Desert Fathers and Mothers***

A brother asked Abba Rufus, "What is interior peace, and what use is it?" The old man said, "Interior peace means to remain sitting in one's cell with fear and knowledge of God, holding far off the remembrance of wrongs suffered and pride of spirit. Such interior peace brings forth all the virtues, preserves the monk from the burning darts of the enemy, and does not allow him to be wounded by them. Yes, brother, acquire it. Keep in mind your future death, remember that you do not know at what hour the thief will come. Likewise be watchful over your soul."

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Psalm 36: 5 – 9 (New International Version)

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals. How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

From ***Children's Letters to God***

Dear God,

I think about
you sometimes even
when I'm not praying.

Elliott

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Psalm 9: 7 – 9 (New International Version)

The LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

From ***Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom***

To me, to be a Christian is very important. To me it means everything, because each individual has to act according to the grace God gives to his soul. God gives to every soul that he has created a chance to come face to face with him, to accept him or to reject him. God has his own ways and means to work in the hearts of men and we do not know how close they are to him. But by their actions we will always know whether they are at his disposal or not. How you live your life is the proof that you are or not fully his, whether one is a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian.

Friday, February 26, 2021

Psalm 19: 1 – 4. (New International Version)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

From Maren Tirabassi, *The Depth of Wells*

Walking in Maine

I walk along the narrows
over grey rock,
crunching the shell shatters
of old gulls' feast.
The grey-white tree bones
bend in wind
that cuts my face
and draws tears.

I have come to Maine
to cry.

Green of conifer,
sleeps in the quiet hills,
beyond the bay, distance
softening horizon.

The broken shell of whelk
or moon snail
lie in my hands –
the spiral is exposed.

My life is turning
and chambered,
secret, sometimes even
without prayer, so
holy is the twist
of hidden music
of the sea.

Saturday, February 27, 2021

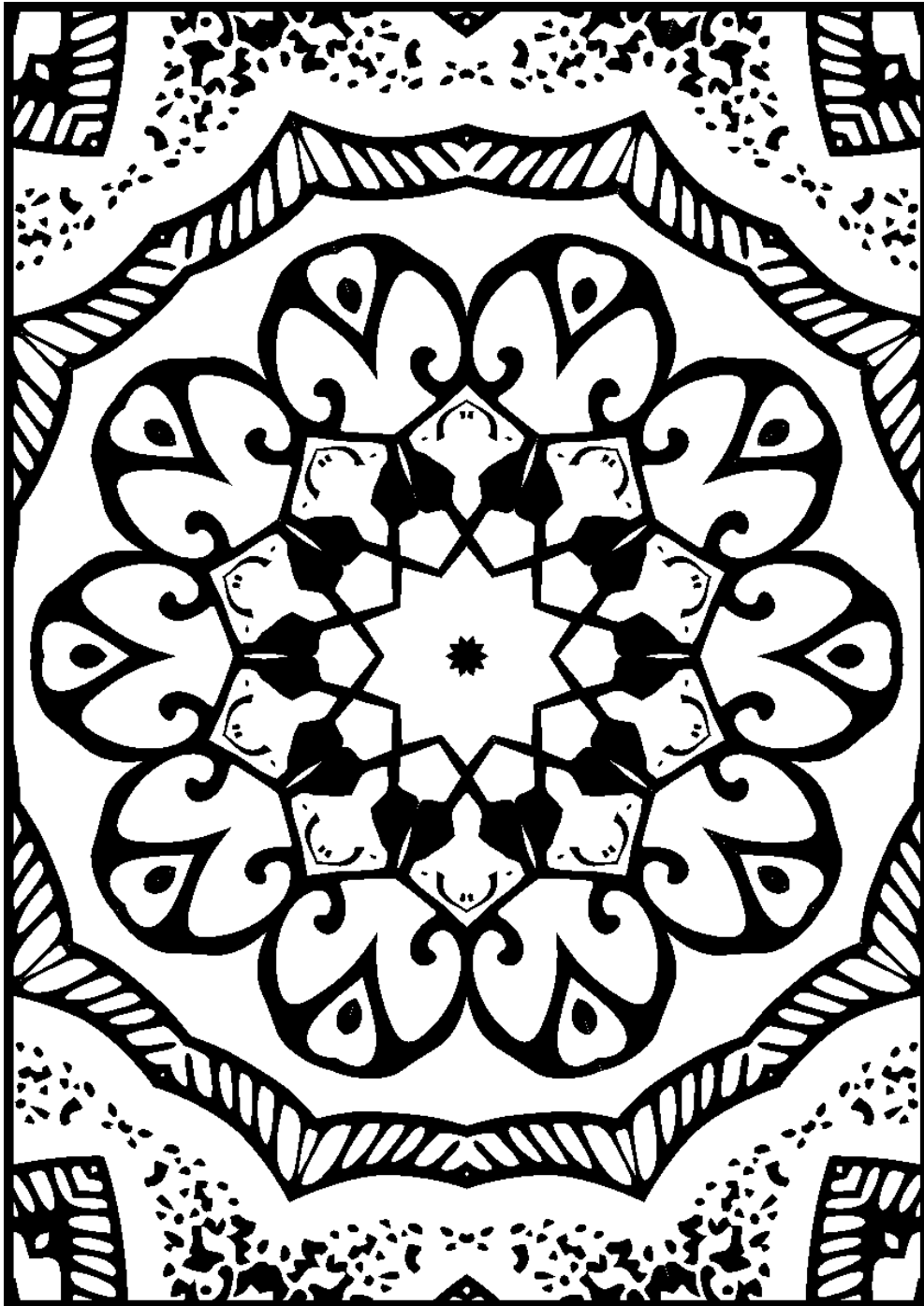
Micah 6:8 (New International Version)

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

From Thomas Merton, ***Bread in the Wilderness***

Love is a movement of the will toward what the intellect sees to be good....There is a desire of God that is called charity although it remains a love for God as the highest good I can desire for myself. The desire for your own fulfilment in God, can be charity: but it must be educated and formed. For charity is the love of God, not precisely as my own highest good, but because He is good in himself.

Lent 2



Sunday, February 28, 2021

Mark 8: 35 – 38 (New International Version)

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

From ***Mother Teresa: Her Essential Writings***

We must know exactly when we say ‘yes’ to God what is in that ‘yes.’ ‘Yes’ means “I surrender,” totally, fully, without any counting the cost, without any examination: “Is it all right? Is it convenient?” Our ‘yes’ to God is without any reservations.

Monday, March 1, 2021

Psalm 8 (New International Version)

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

From ***The Writings of Francis and Claire***

Song of the Creatures

Most High, almighty, and good Lord, yours are the praise and glory, the honor and every blessing! To you alone, Most High, are they due; and no one is worthy to name you.

Praise to you, Lord, with all your creatures; and above all to Brother Sun, who makes the day that lightens us. He is fair and shines with a great splendor. Most High, he bears your mark.

Praise to you, Lord, for Sister Moon and for the Stars. In the heavens you have framed them, clear and precious and fair.

Praise to you, Lord, for Brother Wind, for the air and the cloud, for calm and all weather by which you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praise to you, Lord, for Sister Water. Very useful is she and humble and precious and chaste.

Praise to you, Lord for Brother Fire by whom the night is lightened. He is lovely and limber and lusty and strong.

Praise to you, Lord, for our sister, Mother Earth, who upholds and cares for us, who brings forth the many kinds of fruit, the painted flowers, and the grass.

Praise to you, Lord, for those who forgive for love of you and bear weakness and tribulations.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, for they shall be crowned by you, Most High.

Praise to you, Lord, for our sister, the Death of the Body. No one living may escape from her. Wo to those who die in mortal sin! Blessed are those who find themselves in your most holy will, for the second death cannot harm them

Praise and bless the Lord, and give God thanks, and serve God with great humility.

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

John 1: 10 – 14 (New International Version)

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

From Richard Rohr, ***Silent Contemplation***

On Looking Out in Prayer with Contemplative Eyes

The goal of prayer, as any good Christians would agree, is to give you access to God and to allow you to listen to God and to actually hear God, if that does not seem presumptuous. But mostly, prayer is to allow you to experience the Indwelling Presence yourself. You are finally not praying but prayer is happening through you (see Romans 8: 26 – 27), and you are just the allower and enjoyer.

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Psalm 5:7 (New International Version)

But I, by your great love, can come into your house; in reverence I bow down toward your holy temple.

From ***Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom***

Religion is not something that you and I can dictate. Religion is the worship of God and therefore it is a matter of conscience. Each one of us must decide how we are going to worship. In my case, the religion that I live and practice is Roman Catholicism. It is my life, my joy, and the greatest proof of God's love for me...I cannot force anyone to accept my religion – just as no man, no law, and no government can legally demand that anyone reject a religion that promises them peace, joy, and love.

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Jeremiah 29:11 – 13 (New International Version)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Theophane the Monk, ***Tales of a Magic Monastery***

The Pearl of Great Price

He asked me what I was looking for.

“Frankly,” I said, “I’m looking for the Pearl of Great Price.”

He slipped his hand into his pocket, drew it out, AND GAVE IT TO ME. It was just like that! I was dumbfounded. Then I began to protest: “You don’t want to give it to me? Don’t you want to keep it for yourself? But...”

When I kept this up, he said finally, “Look, is it better to have the Pearl of Great Price, or to give it away?”-

Well, now I have it. I don’t tell anyone. From some there would just be disbelief and ridicule. “You, you have the Pearl of Great Price? Hah!” Others would be jealous, or someone might steal it. Yes, I do have it. But there’s the question: “Is it better to have it, or, to give it away?”

How long will that question rob me of my joy?

Friday, March 5, 2021

Psalm 13: 1 – 6 (New International Version)

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.

From ***Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom***

I don't think there is anyone who needs God's help and grace as much as I do. Sometimes I feel so helpless and weak. I think that is why God uses me. Because I cannot depend on my own strength, I rely on him twenty-four hours a day. If the day had even more hours, then I would need his help and grace during those hours as well. All of us must cling to God through prayer.

Saturday, March 6, 2021

Lamentations 3: 22 - 23 (New Revised Standard Version)

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

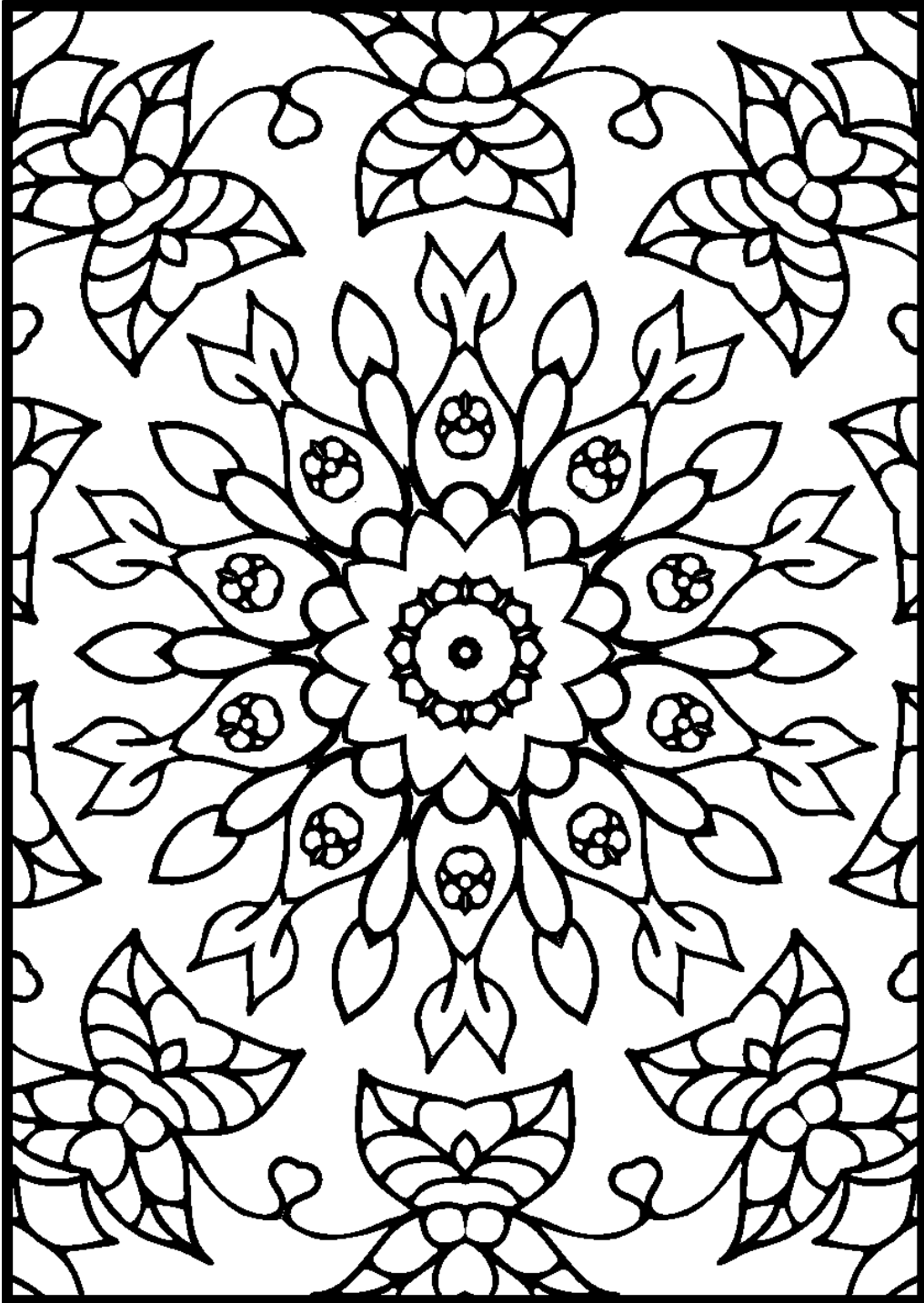
From ***Children's Letters to God***

Dear God,

My Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go?

Love,
Dennis

Lent 3



Sunday, March 7, 2021

John 2: 13 – 17 (New International Version)

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

From Richard Rohr, ***Silent Compassion: Finding God in Contemplation***

God is a verb. The Hebrew name for God, which I still do not pronounce but which is transcribed in English as YHWH...is an impossible compilation of the verb “to be.” ‘Haya’ is past and ‘hove’ is the present and ‘Yihiye’ is the future. If you take past, present and future all together and put them in a firm form that does not exist, you get YHWH, the name of God. It really should be translated not G-o-d but “Is was will be”...It is too holy to be spoken by mere mortals like us.

Monday, March 8, 2021

Psalm 40: 1 – 4 (New International Version)

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him. Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

From ***Writings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers***

Abba Zeno said, "If a man wants God to hear his prayer quickly, then before he prays for anything else, even his own soul, when he stands and stretches out his hands toward God, he must pray with all his heart for his enemies. Through this action God will hear everything that he asks."

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

John 3: 5 – 8 (New International Version)

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

From ***Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom***

As you grow, you have still to learn. I'm still learning though I am fifty-three years in the convent. I am learning from you. We have to learn from each other. Jesus took a little child and put him in front of the apostles. Love begins here. That little kindness, care, compassion, that is the hidden treasure, the growth in holiness. We know where it is, let us go for it!

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Psalm 29 (New Revised Standard Version)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

From Thomas Merton, ***Bread in the Wilderness***

Indeed the Psalms not only show us the way back to Paradise, they are themselves a Paradise. In them the truth and love of God are not only shown to us but communicate to us in the Mystery of Christ, if we can only receive them. The Mystery of the Psalter is above all the Mystery of God's will: the history of Israel is a history of trial and suffering not so much because of the enemies of God's people, still less because Israel was forsaken by God, but because, of all things, Israel kept forsaking God by disobeying His will and mistrusting His providence. The prevarication of the Chosen People is answered and the problems it causes are solved by the obedience of the Redeemer who comes to do God's will.

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Psalm 33: 1 – 5 (New International Version)

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

From Thomas Merton, ***Bread in the Wilderness***

“I will pray with the spirit,” wrote St. Paul to the Corinthians, “I will pray also with the understanding: I will sing with the spirit, I will sing also with the understanding.”
So, too, when we sing the Psalms, the words that are placed before us by the Church are supposed to awaken all the deepest powers of our being and raise us up to God – or rather, to show us that, because of the death and Resurrection of Christ, we find ourselves at this very moment in God, Whose Kingdom has come and is waiting to be revealed in us His sons. How will it be revealed to the world unless it first be realized in us, in whom the Scriptures are to be fulfilled?

Friday, March 12, 2021

Micah 4: 1 – 4 (New Revised Standard Version)

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

From *Writings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*

Abba Macarius was asked, "How should one pray?" The old man said, "There is no need at all to make long discourses; it is enough to stretch out one's hands and say, 'Lord, as you will, and as you know, have mercy.' And if the conflict grows fiercer, say 'Lord, help!' God knows very well what we need and shows us mercy."

Saturday, March 13, 2021

Psalm 9: 1 – 2 (New International Version)

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

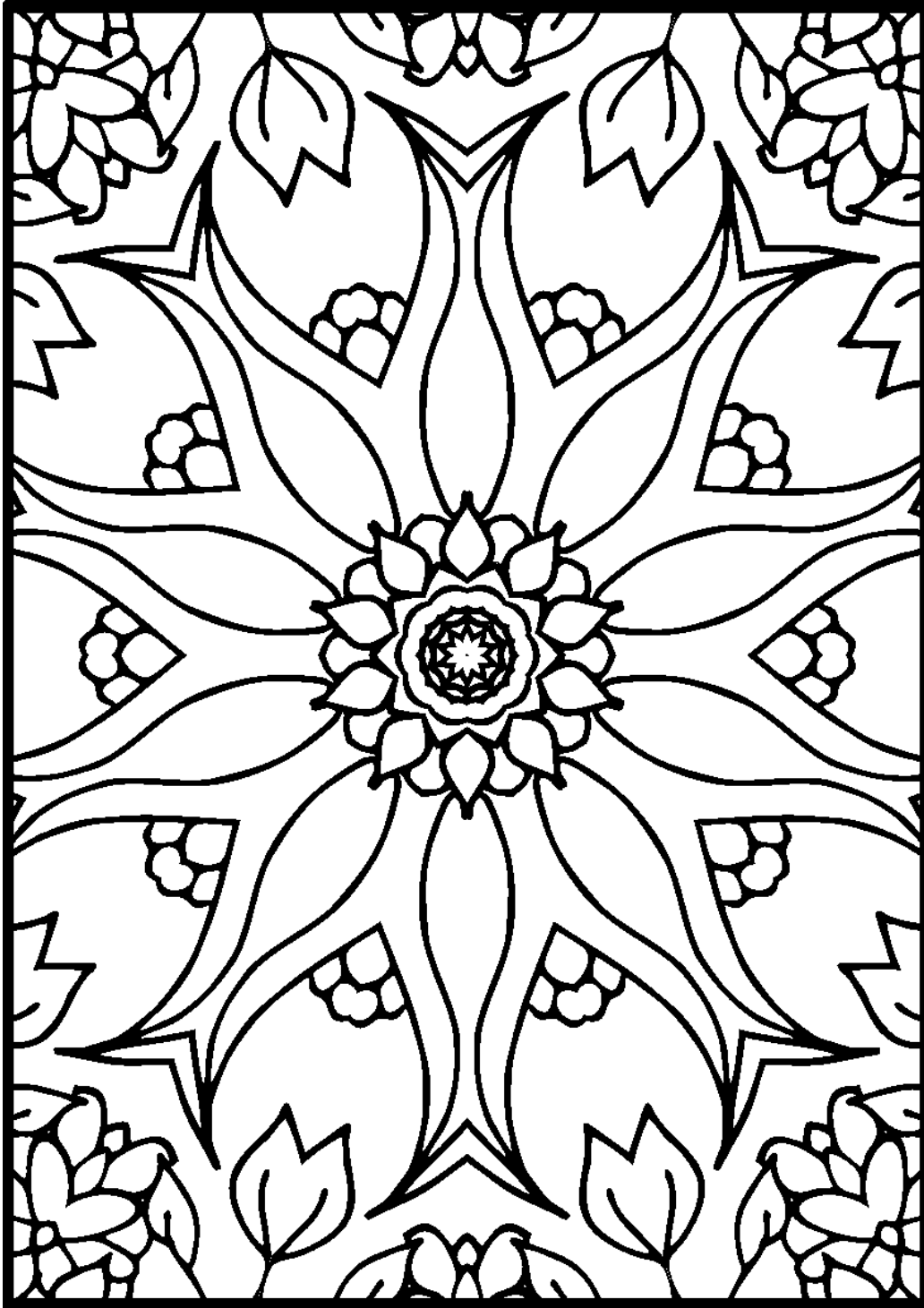
From ***Children's Letters to God***

Dear God,

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tue. That was cool.

Eugene

Lent 4



Sunday, March 14, 2021

John 3: 16 – 21 [Jesus continued in his conversation with Nicodemus] (New International Version)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.”

From ***Writings of Teresa of Avila***

Today while beseeching our Lord to speak for me, there came to my mind what I shall now speak about. It is that we consider our soul to be like a castle made entirely out of a diamond or of very clear crystal, in which there are many rooms, just as in heaven there are many dwelling places. For in reflecting upon it carefully, Sisters, we realize that the soul of the just person is nothing else but a paradise where the Lord says He finds His delight. So then, what do you think that abode will be like where a King so powerful, so wise, so pure, so full of all good things takes His delight? I don't find anything comparable to the magnificent beauty of a soul and its marvelous capacity.

Monday, March 15, 2021

Psalm 16: 1 – 5 (New International Version)

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.” I say of the holy people who are in the land, “They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.” Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips. LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

Brother Lawrence, ***The Practice of the Presence of God***

“I cannot imagine how religious persons can live satisfied without the practice of the presence of GOD. For my part I keep myself retired with Him in the depth of centre of my soul as much as I can; and while I am so with Him I fear nothing; but the least turning from Him is insupportable.”

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

John 4: 23 – 24 (New International Version)

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Theophane the Monk, *Tales of a Magic Monastery*

The Crystal Globe

I told the guestmaster I'd like to become a monk.

“What kind of monk?” he asked. “A real monk?”

“Yes,” I said.

He poured me a cup of wine. “Here, take this.” No sooner had I drunk it than I became aware of a crystal globe forming around me. It began to expand until finally it surrounded him too. This monk, who a minute before had seemed so commonplace, now took on an astonishing beauty. I was struck dumb. After a bit the thought came to me, “Maybe I should tell him how beautiful he is – perhaps he doesn't even know.” But I really *was* dumb – that wine had burned out my tongue! But so great was my happiness at the sight of such beauty that I thought it was well worth the price of my tongue. When he made me a sign to leave, I turned away, confident that the memory of that beauty would be a joy forever.

But what was my surprise when I found that with each person I met it was the same - as soon as he would pass unwittingly into my crystal globe, I could see his beauty too. And I knew it was real.

Is this what it means to be a REAL monk – to see the beauty in others and to be silent?

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

From *Writings of Francis and Claire*

Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi

Our Father, most holy, Creator, Redeemer, Savior, Comforter, *in heaven*, in the angels and saints enlightening them to knowledge of you, for you, Lord, are Light; inflaming them to love of you, for you, Lord, are Love; dwelling in them and filling them with blessing, for you, Lord, are the highest good, the eternal good, from whom all good proceeds, without whom nothing is good.

Hallowed be your name, may it be glorified in us by knowledge of you, that we may perceive the wideness of your blessings, the extent of your promises, the height of your majesty, the depth of your judgments.

Your kingdom come, that you may reign in us by your grace and bring us to your kingdom, where the vision of you is revealed, and your love made perfect, that we may enter your blessed presence, and enjoy you forever.

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven, that we may love you with all our hearts, ever thinking of you, and desiring you with all our souls and with all our minds; directing all our intentions to you and seeking your honor in all things; with all our strength devoting every power and faculty of mind and body to the service of your love and to no other end .

May we also love our neighbors as ourselves drawing them to love of you with all our power; delighting in the good of others as in our own, sharing in their troubles, and giving no offense to any.

Give us today our daily bread, which is your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the remembrance, understanding and reverence of the love that he bore us, and for the things that he said, did, and endured for our sakes.

Forgive us our sins, through your infinite mercy and by virtue of the passion of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and through the merits and prayer of the most blessed Virgin Mary and of all your elect.

As we forgive those who sin against us and since we do not forgive fully, Lord, enable us to forgive fully so that we may truly love our enemies for your sake and pray for them devoutly to you, not returning evil for evil but seeking to serve all people in you.

Save us from the time of trial, hidden or open, sudden or persistent.

And deliver us from evil, past, present, and to come

Amen.

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Isaiah 40: 26 – 31 (New International Version)

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

John Wesley, ***How To Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer***

"I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions."

Friday, March 19, 2021

Psalm 24: 7 - 10 (New Revised Standard Version)

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Sir Thomas More

The many great gardens of the world, of literature and poetry, of painting and music, of religion and architecture, all make the point as clear as possible: The soul cannot thrive in the absence of a garden. If you don't want paradise, you are not human; and if you are not human, you don't have a soul.

Saturday, March 20, 2021

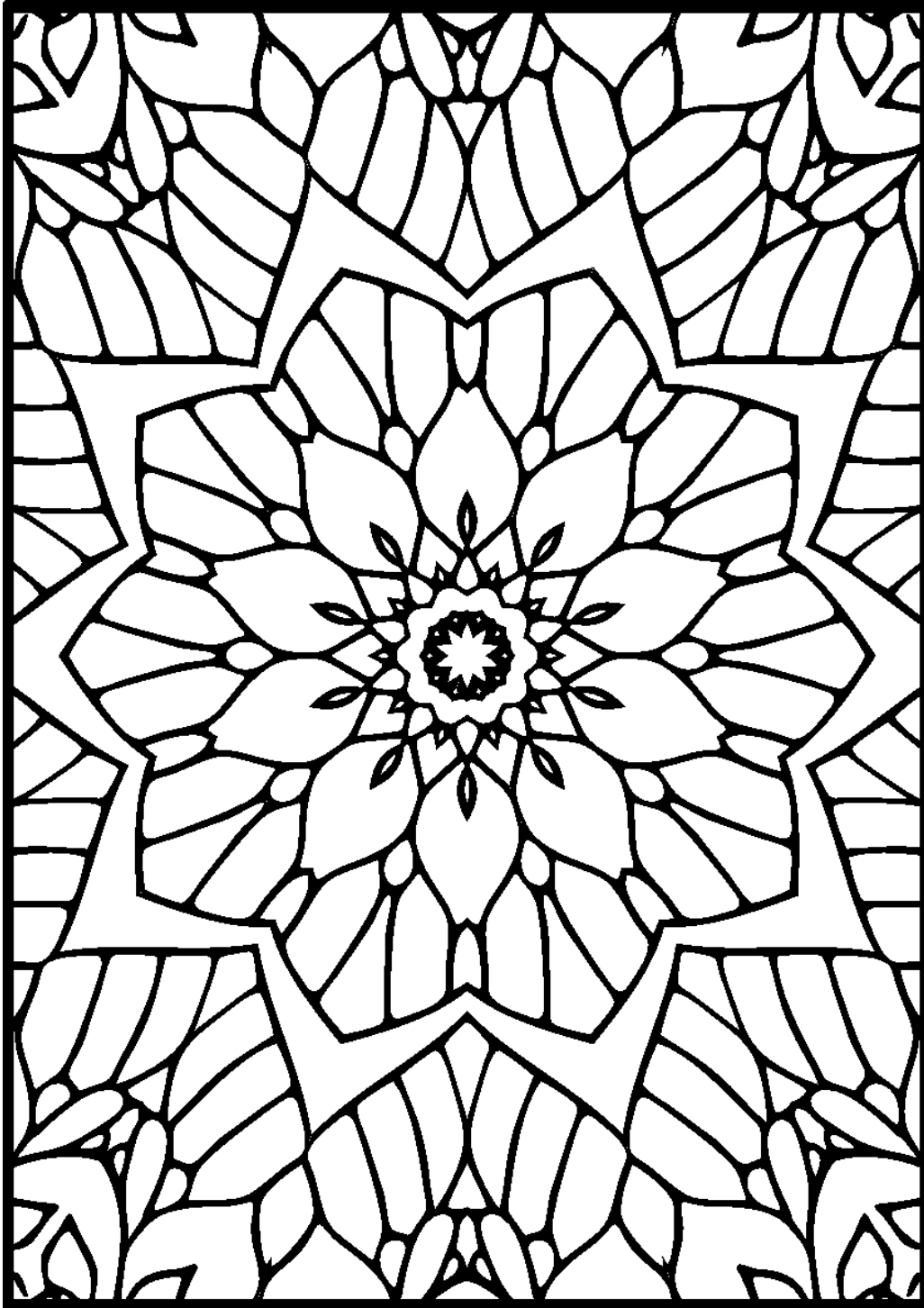
Ecclesiastes 3: 11 (New International Version)

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Thomas Aquinas, ***Summa Contra Gentiles***

“The study of truth requires a considerable effort - which is why few are willing to undertake it out of love of knowledge - despite the fact that God has implanted a natural appetite for such knowledge in the minds of men.”

Lent 5



Sunday, March 21, 2021

John 12: 23 – 25 (New International Version)

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John Wesley

“Holy solitaries’ is a phrase no more consistent with the Gospel than holy adulterers. The Gospel of Christ knows no religion but social; no holiness, but social holiness.”

Monday, March 22, 2021

Psalm 17: 1 – 8 (New International Version)

Hear me, LORD, my plea is just; listen to my cry. Hear my prayer— it does not rise from deceitful lips. Let my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right. Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me, you will find that I have planned no evil; my mouth has not transgressed. Though people tried to bribe me, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent through what your lips have commanded. My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled. I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings

John Wesley, ***How to Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer***

“Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake- not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will.”

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

John 6: 35 (New International Version)

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Thomas Aquinas

"Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen."

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Psalm 31: 1 - 5 (New Revised Standard Version)

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Ignatius Loyola

“We must speak to God as a friend speaks to his friend, servant to his master; now asking some favor, now acknowledging our faults, and communicating to Him all that concerns us, our thoughts, our fears, our projects, our desires, and in all things seeking His counsel.”

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Psalm 10: 17 – 18 (New International Version)

You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.

From ***Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom***

A beggar one day came up to me and said, "Mother Teresa, everybody gives you things for the poor. I also want to give you something. But today, I am only able to get ten pence I want to give that to you." I said to myself, "If I take it, he might have to go to bed without eating. If I don't take it, I will hurt him." So I took it. And I've never seen so much joy on anybody's face who has given his money or food, as I saw on that man's face. He was happy that he too could give something. This is the joy of loving.

Friday, March 26, 2021

Amos 5: 24 (New Revised Standard Version)

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

John Wesley

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Psalm 34: 6 – 8 (New International Version)

This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Theophane the Monk, *Tales of a Magic Monastery*

It's Very Simple

He looked so holy that I simply asked him, "Tell me what God is like."

With feather gentleness he replied, "It is Lent now. I'm accustomed to refrain from talking during Lent. But take this book." (It was the book he had been writing in.) "If you read this at the right hour, it will tell you what God is like."

I couldn't wait to bring it back and share it with my wife.

Back home, she was a little less excited than I about the book, because her mind was on our first child that she was carrying. "What did he mean by 'at the right hour?'" she asked.

I didn't know. We began to speculate. Maybe at noon on Good Friday. Maybe after the Easter Vigil. Maybe at the moment when we are in deep distress. Perhaps we should wait for God to reveal to us the right hour. It might even be years from now. We decided we'd better wait for a sign.

Two weeks later my first son was born. How can I tell you what it was like? First the worry, then – that child. I was a father. You grow up when you become a father. When I looked at that child I was so proud. I knew I was somebody. And yet humbled. I scarcely knew how to hold him, much less to bring him up. I used to think I had it all figured out, but that kid was bigger than I.

That night the child appeared to me in a dream. "What is God like?" he asked.

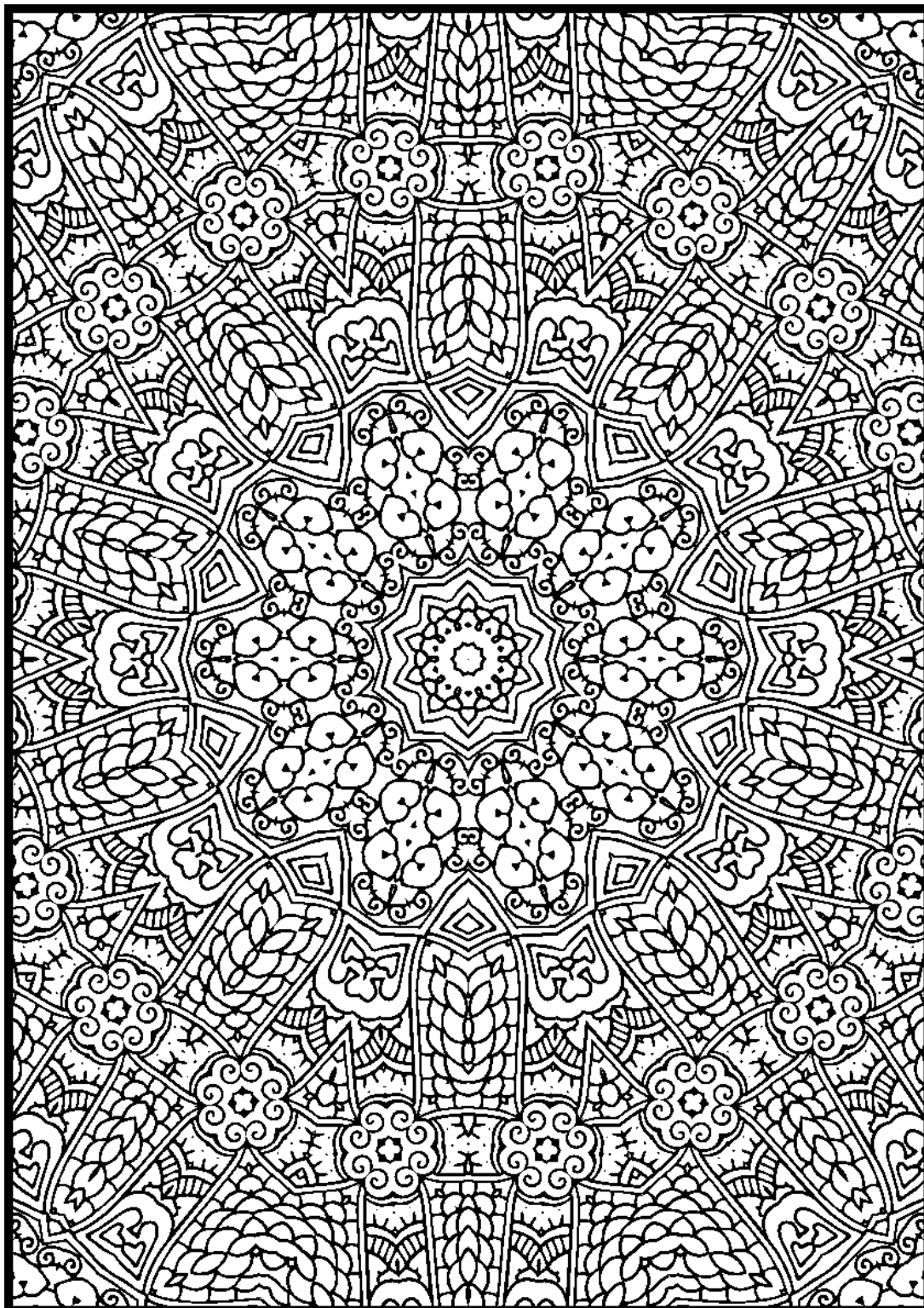
That did it. I got up and reached for the book. I brought it to my wife and told her, "This is the right hour. We'll open it now."

I opened it at random. I read, "It's very simple. God is a father."

My wife opened it again. She read, "It's very simple. God became a little child."

"Let's open it again." I cried, "together." I took her hand. She opened it and we read, "It's very simple. Each breath you breathe is the breath of God."

Lent 6



Sunday, March 28, 2021

John 12: 12 – 16 (New International Version)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

"Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

From Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*

Blessing of Palms

This blessing
can be heard coming
from a long way off.

This blessing
is making
its steady way
up the road
toward you.

This blessing
blooms in the throats
of women,
springs from the hearts
of men,
tumbles out of the mouths
of children.

This blessing
is stitched into
the seams
of the cloaks
that line the road,
etched into
the branches
that trace the path

echoes in
the breathing
of the willing colt
the click
of the donkey's hoof
against the stones.

Something is rising
beneath this blessing.
Something will try
to drown it out.

But this blessing
cannot be turned back,
cannot be made
to still its voice,
cannot cease
to sing its praise
of the One who comes
along the way
it makes.

Monday, March 29, 2021

Malachi 3: 1 - 3 (New International Version)

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.

Brother Lawrence, ***The Practice of the Presence of God***

“That as he knew his obligation to love GOD in all things, and as he endeavored so to do, he had no need of a director to advise him, but that he needed much a Confessor to absolve him. That he was very sensible of his faults, but not discouraged by them; that he confessed them to GOD, but did not plead against Him to excuse them. When he had so done, he peaceably resumed his usual practice of love and adoration.”

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Psalm 11: 1 – 7 (New International Version)

In the LORD I take refuge. How then can you say to me: “Flee like a bird to your mountain. For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart. When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them. The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.

Ignatius Loyola

“Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess You have given me. I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.”

Wednesday, March 31, 2021:

Psalm 22: 1 – 3 (New International Version)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.

Brother Lawrence, ***The Practice of the Presence of God***

“When the mind, for want of being sufficiently reduced by recollection at our first engaging in devotion, has contracted certain bad habits of wandering and dissipation, they are difficult to overcome, and commonly draw us, even against our wills, to the things of the earth.

I believe one remedy for this is to confess our faults, and to humble ourselves before God. I do not advise you to use multiplicity of words in prayer: many words and long discourses being often the occasions of wandering. Hold yourself in prayer before God, like a dumb or paralytic beggar at a rich man's gate. Let it be your business to keep your mind in the presence of the Lord. If it sometimes wander and withdraw itself from Him, do not much disquiet yourself for that: trouble and disquiet serve rather to distract the mind than to re-collect it: the will must bring it back in tranquility. If you persevere in this manner, God will have pity on you.”

Thursday, April 1, 2021: Maundy Thursday

John 13: 1 – 17 (New International Version)

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

From Jan Richardson, ***Circle of Grace***

Blessing the Bread, the Cup

Let us bless the bread
that gives itself to us,
with its terrible weight,
its infinite grace.

Let us bless the cup
poured out for us
with a love
that makes us anew.

Let us gather
around these gifts
simply given
and deeply blessed.

And then let us go,
bearing the bread,
carrying the cup,
laying the table,
within a hungering world.

Friday, April 2, 2021: Good Friday

John 19: 16 – 22, 28 – 30 (New International Version)

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

From Jan Richardson, ***Circle of Grace***

Song of the Winding Sheet

We never
would have wished it
to come to this,
yet we call
these moments holy
As we hold you.

Holy the tending,
holy the winding,
holy the leaving
as in the living.

Holy the silence,
holy the stillness,
holy the turning
and returning to earth.

Blessed is the One
who came
in the name,

blessed is the One
who laid
himself down

blessed is the One
emptied for us

blessed is the One
wearing the shroud.

Holy the waiting,
holy the grieving,
holy the shadows
and gathering night.

Holy the darkness,
holy the hours,
holy the hope
turning toward light.

Saturday, April 3, 2021

Matthew 27: 57 – 66 (New International Version)

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.

"Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

From Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*

Blessing for a Broken Vessel

Do not despair.
You hold the memory
of what it was
to be whole.

It lives deep
in your bones.
It abides in your heart
that has been torn
and mended
a hundred times.
It persists
in your lungs
that know the mystery
of what it means
to be full,
to be empty,
to be full again.

I am not asking you
to give up your grip
on the shards you clasp
so close to you

but to wonder
what it would be like
for those jagged edges
to meet each other
in some new pattern
that you have never imagined,
that you have never dared
to dream.

Sunday, April 4, 2021: Resurrection of the Lord

Mark 16: 1 – 8 (New International Version)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

From Jan Richardson, ***Circle of Grace***

Risen

If you are looking
for a blessing,
do not linger
here.

Here
is only
emptiness,
a hollow,
a husk
where a blessing
used to be.

This blessing
was not content
in its confinement.

It could not abide
its isolation,
the unrelenting silence,
the pressing stench
of death.

So if it is
a blessing you seek,
open your own
mouth.

Fill your lungs
with the air
this new
morning brings

and then
release it
with a cry.

Hear how the blessing
breaks forth
in your own voice,

how your own lips
form every word
you never dreamed
to say.

See how the blessing
circles back again,
wanting you to
repeat it,
but louder,

how it draws you,
pulls you,
sends you,
to proclaim,
its only word:

Risen.

Risen.

Risen.

Sunday, April 4, 2021: Easter Evening

Luke 24: 13 – 45 (New International Version)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Bibliography

- Beasley-Topliffe, Keith, editor. "The Riches of Simplicity: Selected Writings of Francis & Clare." *Upper Room Spiritual Classics*. Upper Room Books, 1998.
- Beasley-Topliffe, Keith, editor. "The Soul's Passion for God: Selected Writing of Teresa of Avila." *Upper Room Spiritual Classics*. Upper Room Books, 1997.
- Beasley-Topliffe, Keith, editor. "Writings of The Desert Fathers & Mothers." *Upper Room Spiritual Classics*. Upper Room Books, 2017.
- Hample, Stuart and Eric Marshall. *Children's Letters to God*. New York, Workman Publishing, 1991.
- "Ignatius Loyola Quotes and Sayings - Page 1" *InspiringQuotes*.
<https://www.inspiringquotes.us/author/1227-ignatius-loyola>
- "John Wesley > Quotes." *Goodreads*.
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/151350.John_Wesley
- Merton, Thomas. *Bread in the Wilderness*. Collegeville, MN, The Liturgical Press, 1953.
- Mother Teresa: Her Essential Wisdom*, edited by Carol Kelly-Gangi. New York, Barnes and Noble, 2006.
- "The Practice of the Presence of God Quotes." *Goodreads*.
<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2133549-maximes-spirituelles>
- Richardson, Jan. *Circle of Grace*. Orlando, Wanton Gospeller Press, 2015.
- Rohr, Richard. *Silent Compassion: Finding God in Contemplation*. Cincinnati, Franciscan Media, 2014.
- Theophane the Monk. *Tales of a Magic Monastery*. New York, Crossroad, 1981.
- "Thomas Aquinas > Quotes." *Goodreads*.
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/158904.Thomas_Aquinas
- "Thomas More > Quotes." *Goodreads*.
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/3063220.Thomas_More
- Tirabassi, Maren C. *The Depth of Wells*. Portsmouth, NH, Peter E Randall Publisher, 2000.