

**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."