

Lectio Holy Week / Jesus' Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem & Last Supper

- ***First Reading:*** (Taken from the Big Book)

“God, I offer myself to You – to build with me and to do with me as You will.
Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Your will.
Take away all my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would
help of Your Power, Your Love, and Your Way of life. May I do your will always!”
We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last
abandon ourselves to Him.

- ***Second Reading:*** (From John)

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to
Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,
“*Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!*”
Jesus came seated on a young donkey for as it is written, “*Do not be afraid, daughter of
Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!*”

- ***Hymn: Ride on King Jesus (African American Hymn) by The Joyful Gospel Group***

Ride On, King Jesus! / No man can a hinder me!
In that greatness of mornin / Fare thee well, fare thee well

When I get to heaven gonna wear a robe / *No man can a hinder me*
Gonna see King Jesus sitting on a throne / *No man can a hinder me*
Gonna walk all over those street of gold / *No man can a hinder me*
Goin to a land whe-ere we'll never grow old / *No man can a hinder me*

In that greatness of mornin / Fare thee well, fare thee well
No man can a hinder.....meeeeeeeee

- ***Lectio***

(Paul wrote,)

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

“This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying,

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- *From Isaiah the Prophet:*

The wilderness and the dry land will be glad,
 ***the desert will rejoice and blossom;**
Like the crocus it will blossom abundantly,
 ***and rejoice with joy and singing.**
They will see the glory of the LORD,
 ***the majesty of our God will be made clear.**

Strengthen our weak hands,
 ***and make firm our feeble knees.**
Say to those who are fearful of heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"
 ***Here is your God. He will come and save you."**

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
 ***and the ears of the deaf will hear;**
Then the lame will leap like a deer,
 ***and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**
For waters will break forth in the wilderness,
 ***and streams will flow in the desert;**
And the ransomed of the LORD will return home,
 ***everlasting joy will be upon their heads;**
They will come to know peace and happiness,
 ***their sorrows and tears will all be wiped away.**

- *Closing Hymn: I Am the Bread of Life* *by Friar John Michael Talbot, OFM*

I am the Bread of Life / He who comes to me shall not hunger
He who believes in me shall not thirst
No one can come to me unless the Father draw him
And I will raise him up! / And I will raise him up! / And I will raise him up on the last day!

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world
And he who eats of this bread, he shall live forever / He shall live forever
And I will raise him up! / And I will raise him up! / And I will raise him up on the last day!
And I will raise him up! / And I will raise him up! / And I will raise him up on the last day!

Sam Shoemaker Community / Lectio / Holy Week Two / The Cross

- ***Recovery Reading: Taken from a Biography of Frank Buchman by Garth Lean***

In 1908, FRANK BUCHMAN, the founder of the Oxford Group had a powerfully transformative religious experience in Keswick, England. After being forced to resign by his Board of Directors from the hospice which he founded, Buchman harbored deep resentments against the men on his Board. Soon after, he suffered a stress related illness and decided to have a holiday in Europe to recuperate. Attending an annual gathering of evangelical Christians, Buchman stopped in for a small, Sunday morning chapel service. The sermon was on Christ's cross and was so moving that it led Buchman to examine the part he played in the bitter dispute. He describes the experience as follows:

I saw the look of sorrow and infinite suffering in His face. I knew that I had wounded Him, that there was a great distance between myself and Him...my sin, my pride, my selfishness and my ill will had eclipsed me from God in Christ...I asked God to change me and He told me to put things right with the hospice Board.

Buchman then wrote letter of amends to each of the six men admitting that he was “the seventh wrong man” and humbly asking their forgiveness. At the top of each letter, he wrote these words from an old hymn:

***When I survey the wondrous cross / On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss / And pour contempt on all my pride***

- ***Meditation Hymn: Were You There?***

by Jessye Norman

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? / Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! ... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? / Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh! ... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? *(interlude)*

Oh! ... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

- ***Lectio:***

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- *Psalm 22:*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;

and by night but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were saved;

in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near,

and there is no one here to help.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

they bound my hands and feet.

I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far away!

O my help, come quickly to my aid!

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

Stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me but heard me when I cried.

- *Closing Hymn: “Living Words”* *by The Episcopal Community of Celebration*

Mary! Mary! Mary! Mary! Mary! / Neither do I condemn you / Go and sin no more

Simon! Simon! Simon! Simon! Simon! / He whom I have forgiven much / He loves me the most

Laz'rus! Laz'rus! Laz'rus! Laz'rus! Laz'rus, Come forth! / I am the resurrection / I am the life

Children! Children! Children! Children! Children! / If you are weary come to me, I will give you rest

Father! Father! Father! Father! Father! / Father, forgive them / They know not what they do

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Amen!

Lectio Phil 2:4-11

Sam Shoemaker Community / Easter Lectio 2023

- **Recovery Reading:** This reading is taken from Rev. Sam Shoemaker. *Sam writes:*

Men run from your arguments about God, they will not listen to your elaborate explanations; but when you tell them what life was *without God* and then tell them what it is *with Him*, their hearts, as John Wesley said, are “*strangely warmed*,” and their minds also are strangely persuaded. ...

Then Jesus gave them his answer to John He just gathered up in a cascade of living words the living deeds He and they had been seeing, and said, “Go your way and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.”

It was proof by evidence. They had seen these people themselves.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

- **Meditation Hymn: “What the Lord Has Done in Me”** *by Mark Robin*

Let the weak say I am strong / Let the poor say I am rich

Let the blind say I can see / It’s what the Lord has done in me (2x)

Hosanna! Hosanna! To the Lamb that was slain

Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus died and rose again (2x)

Into the river I will wade / There my sins are washed away

From the heavens mercy streams of the Savior's love for me

I will rise from waters deep into the saving arms of God

I will sing salvation songs / Jesus Christ has set me free!

Let the weak say I am strong / Let the poor say I am rich

Let the blind say I can see / It’s what the Lord has done in me

Lectio:

And when (the women) went into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right, wearing a white robe, and they were afraid.

He says to them,

“Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified.

He was raised, he is not here! Look at the spot where they put him!

But go tell his disciples, including ‘Rock,’ he is going ahead of you to Galilee!

There you will see him, just as he told you.”

And once they got outside, they ran away from the tomb because great fear and excitement got the better of them.

And they didn't breathe a word of it to anyone: *talk about terrified...*

- **Psalm:**

I thank you and praise you, Lord for saving me from disaster.

***I cried out, “Help me, dear God; I’m frightened and have lost my way.”**

<i>You came to me in the darkness;</i>	*you breathed life into my bones.
<i>You plucked me from the abyss;</i>	*you healed me and made me whole.
<i>You rescued me from despair;</i>	*you turned my cries into dancing.
<i>You lifted me up from death;</i>	*you clothed me with the joy of your presence.

Sing to the Lord, you who love him; ***thank him from the depths of your hearts.**
For though he may seem to be absent, ***in his presence is eternal life.**

<i>Tears may linger when night falls;</i>	*but joy arrives with the dawn.
<i>Therefore, my soul blesses him</i>	*with every breath I take.
<i>My song will thank him forever</i>	*and my life will be filled with his praise.

- **Closing hymn:** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* *Choir of the National Philharmonic Orchestra*

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, *Alleluia!....*

- Recovery Reading: Shoemaker, National Awakening, p. 28
- **Psalm 30 (Modern version)**
- Lectio: Mark 16: 1-8

Sam Shoemaker Community / Recovery Lectio / Doubting Thomas

- **Recovery Reading:** (Taken from the Big Book)

... deep down in every man, woman, and child, is the fundamental idea of God. It may be obscured by calamity, by pomp, by worship of other things, but in some form or other it is there. For faith in a Power greater than ourselves, and miraculous demonstrations of that power in human lives, are facts as old as man himself.

We finally saw that faith in some kind of God was a part of our make-up, just as much as the feeling we have for a friend. Sometimes we had to search fearlessly, but He was there. He was as much a fact as we were. We found the Great Reality deep down within us. In the last analysis it is only there that He may be found. It was so with us.

We can only clear the ground a bit. If our testimony helps sweep away prejudice, enables you to think honestly, encourages you to search diligently within yourself, then, if you wish, you can join us on the Broad Highway. With this attitude you cannot fail. The consciousness of your belief is sure to come to you.

- **Meditation Hymn: Give Me Jesus**

by Fernando Ortega

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus!

Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus! You can have all this world, give me Jesus!

And when I am alone, O and when I am alone, and when I am alone, give me Jesus!

Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus! You can have all this world, give me Jesus!

(Music interlude)

And when I come to die, O and when I come to die, and when I come to die, give me Jesus!

Give me Jesus! Give me Jesus! You can have all this world, you can have all this world,

You can have all this world but give me Jesus!

- **Lectio**

That Sunday evening, the disciples had locked the door for fear of the Judeans, but Jesus came and stood in front of them and he greets them, “*Peace.*”

Then he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were delighted to see the Master. ...

Now Thomas, the one known as “the Twin,” one of the twelve, hadn’t been with them when Jesus made his appearance. So the other disciples told him, “*We have seen the Master.*”

But he responded, “*Unless I see the holes the nails made, and put my finger in them and my hand in his side, I’ll never believe.*”

A week later the disciples were again indoors, and Thomas was with them.

The doors were locked, but Jesus comes and stood in front of them, and said, “*Peace.*”

Then he says to Thomas, “*Put your finger here, and look at my hands; take your hand and put it in my side. Don’t be skeptical but be a believer.*”

Thomas responded, “*My Lord! My God!*”

“*Do you believe because you have seen me?*” asks Jesus.

“*Those who can believe without having to see are the ones to be congratulated.*”

- ***Psalm 53***

The ignorant say to themselves, “*All things are accidental;*

****There is no justice on earth, and after death there is nothing***”

They think that they know

****Their minds move on the surface of things***

They don't perceive the deep patterns

****They don't understand who they are***

They slip into selfishness

****Or slide down into despair***

Let your light shine into them, Lord

****Let your wisdom transform their lives***

Let them realize where they come from

****Let their minds become spacious and clear***

Let compassion flow from their hearts

****Into the slightest of their actions***

Let them care for the weak and the wretched

****And share their wealth with the poor***

Then I will burst out in thanksgiving

****And rejoice in the power of your love***

Closing Hymn: I Believe

by Mahalia Jackson

I believe for every drop of rain that falls a flower grows

I believe that somewhere in the darkest night a candle glows

I believe for everyone who goes astray someone will come and show the Way

I believe! I believe!

I believe above the storms the smallest prayer will still be heard

I believe that someone in the great somewhere hears every word

Every time I hear a new baby cry, or touch a leaf, or see the sky

Then I know why *I believe!*

BB p. 55

(Gospel of John)

Psalm 53 (Modern version)

Sam Shoemaker Community / Recovery Lectio / Easter Five I Am the Way

- *The Recovery Reading is from the book Sermon on the Mount by Emmett Fox. Fox was a popular writer among early AAs. He writes:*

One of the very oldest and most important symbols for the human soul is that of a building... Jesus was a builder – a carpenter – and he knew how to build.... On the shifting sands of the desert it is impossible to build anything at all, and so there many people have to dwell in tents. When these people intended to put up a permanent structure, they looked for a rock and build upon that. Now the Rock is one of the Bible terms for the Christ and the implication is very obvious. The Christ truth is the one and only foundation upon which we can build the Temple of the regenerated soul with safety. It is the one thing in existence that is absolutely true, never varying, never shifting – the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Resting on this foundation we will stand secure when the winds, and rains, and floods of error, of fear, of doubt, and self- hatred, beat upon us, beat they ever so hard; for we are founded upon the Rock. But as long as we are depending upon anything less than the Rock – upon will power, upon material security, upon the good-will of others, or upon our own personal resources – upon anything but God in fact, we are building upon sand, and great will be our fall.

- *Meditation Hymn: “Love Can Build a Bridge”* *by the Judds*

I'd gladly walk across the desert / With no shoes upon my feet
To share with you the last bite / Of bread I had to eat
I would swim out to save you / In your sea of broken dreams
When all your hopes are sinkin' / Let me show you what love means
(Chorus) Love can build a bridge / Between your heart and mine
Love can build a bridge / Don't you think its time? / Don't you think its time?

I would whisper love so loudly / Every heart could understand / That love and only love
Can join the tribes of man / I would give my hearts desire / So that you might see
The first step is to realize / That it all begins with you and me *(chorus)*

When we stand together / Its our finest hour / We can do anything,
Anything! / Anything, **Anything!** / Keep believin' in the power *(chorus)*
Love and only love / Love and only love

- *Lectio:*

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*”

- *A Passage from the prophet Isaiah*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
 ***my chosen, in whom my soul delights;**
I have put my Spirit upon him,
 ***and he will bring forth justice to the nations.**
He will not fail or be discouraged till he has established justice in all the earth;
 ***and all the world awaits his law.**

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
 ***I have taken you by the hand and kept you;**
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 ***a light to the nations,**
To open the eyes that are blind
 ***and bring the prisoners out from their dungeons**

I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other,
 ***nor my power to any graven images.**
Behold, the former things have passed away,
 ***and I make all things new.**

- *Closing Hymn: “The Great Storm Is Over”*

by John McCutcheon

The thunder & lightening gave voice to the night
The little, small child cried aloud in her fright
 Hush, little baby, a story I will tell
 Of a love that has vanquished the powers of hell

Alleluia! The great storm is over, lift up your wings and fly!
Alleluia! The great storm is over, lift up your wings and fly!

Sweetness in the air and justice on the wind
 Laughter in the house where the mourners had been
 The deaf shall have music, the blind have new eyes
 The standards of death taken down by surprise

Release for the captives, an end to the wars
 Streams in the desert, new hope for the poor
 Little small children shall dance as they sing
 And play with the bears and the lions in the spring

Hush, little baby, let go of your fears
 The Lord loves his own and your mother is here
 The babe fell asleep as the lantern did burn
 The mother sang on till her Bridegroom's return

- John 14:1-14
- Isaiah 42