

March 23, 2020

Greetings, everyone! With schools and churches closed, and with all of us living in isolation during these extraordinary times, it may become easy for us to lose track of the days, and the season we are in. We are social creatures, and some of us may begin to feel disoriented by the lack of routine in communion with others.

I cannot envision what the “Easter Feast” will look like this spring of 2020, but I do know that the great Feasts on our Church calendar are enriched by the idea of “preparation.” The Christmas Feast is made all the richer by the wonderful crescendo experienced through the Advent Season, and of course Easter is made all the more meaningful and enjoyable when we have lived out Lent in all its fullness.

This past Sunday marked the beginning of the 4th week of Lent. Jesus’ long walk is nearing completion as he approaches Jerusalem. Jesus’ final days, death, and resurrection bring a complete understanding to Jesus’ three year walk, and to our own lives. We can pray or meditate with our own journey, or “pilgrimage” in mind. Where are we walking too, and who is walking with us?

I would like to share two quotes from the March missalette:

“Our hearts were made for you, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in you.” (St. Augustine)

“We need to find God, and God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life.” (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Perhaps during this time of isolation we can find time to meditate in silence, seeking to open our souls to eternal, divine presence. God is without beginning or end, ever present in nature, and within us. Intentional meditation can make us mindful of this presence, and help us to see nature, other people, and ourselves with new eyes.

Perhaps during this time we need to pray for people who we need to forgive.

Maybe there are people who need to forgive us for harm we have caused, unintentionally or deliberately. We can pray for their well being.

We can pray for our own restless minds and hearts. May the peace of Christ enter fully into our being.

The Psalm of this past Sunday is a familiar one. Psalm 23:

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.*

*He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;*

*you anoint my head with oil;
my cup over-flows.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.*

Peace to you all, my friends. Take good care of yourself, your family, and anyone who has crossed your path in need of help.

Michael Buhler