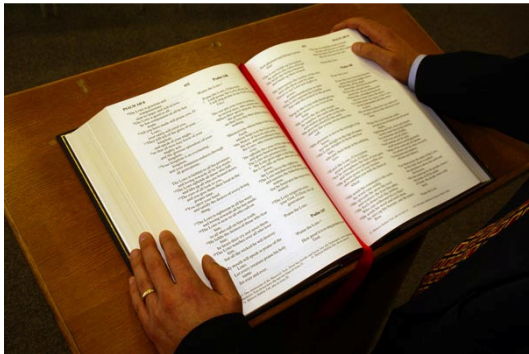


LENTEN MEDITATIONS 2015

*BY MEMBERS OF
ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NAVARRE, FLORIDA*



In our tradition, Lent is an effort to follow the example of Christ's 40 days in the wilderness. This involves taking time to examine material and spiritual excesses in our lives, and try to leave some of them behind us. This, of course, flies in the face of our modern culture's idea that everything (including faith) must be happy, easy, and have mass popular appeal. Yet, it is important to remember that Jesus' life was full of poverty, simplicity, and sacrifice, and perhaps give it a try ourselves.

Two ways to "keep" Lent are Bible reading and prayer. When faced with temptation in the desert, Our Lord relied on Scripture for strength and courage in the face of the Enemy. It is an impressive weapon for us as well. Lent is a good time to develop or strengthen a discipline of daily prayer. The ancient practice of praying throughout the day is a good place to start. You might look at pages 37-144 of the Book of Common Prayer for our traditions of praying at different hours. Perhaps a goal for Lent could be to read Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer every day

In this booklet, you will find thoughts and prayers from parishioners here at St. Augustine's on the daily lectionary readings for Lent 2015. It is our own version of "Forward Day by Day" just for Lent. You can find this booklet online at <http://staugustinesnavarre.diocgc.com/>; you can find the readings in handy links at <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>.

Also you will find in here reminders of activities in the parish during Lent: soup suppers, special services, meetings and so on. You are invited and encouraged to participate in as many of these as you can.

Thank you for participating!

Libbi Crowe, Editor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

PSALMS: A.M. 95, 32, 143 P.M.: 102, 130, JON 3:1-4:11, HEB 12:1-14, LUKE 18:9-14

PSALM 95

When I read Psalm 95, my first thoughts are the reminders that no matter what is going on, we should rejoice, we should be happy and thankful. He is the great I a.m., the One who made and keeps me and all things. This Psalm brings to mind the strength God gives me, us to continue in all things. When I was deployed, my husband gave me Psalm 23 as a reminder that I a.m. protected in all things.

This, in turn, reminds me of Ephesians 6:17 telling us to take salvation as our helmet and the word of God as the sword that the Spirit supplies. This scripture was one sent to me by a congregation member when I was in Iraq. While all these remind me of God's continued protection in times of fear and trouble, it also reminds me that in being truthful to God (hear me out), He forgives us. Yes, He knows our hearts, He knows what we do, what we intend but to give voice to it is altogether another matter. The fact that we should have faith enough to confess to Him who is all knowing with the understanding that He loves and forgives us no matter what, is huge.

Selah is thought to be a musical value meaning "lift up" or "fortissimo" or "strike the harp". Some translate it as a type of curse alluding to requesting God's justice with a passionate outcry. Others translate it as meaning to continue without interruption. All the translations give me pause in God's eternal love for us. We should be lifted up and we should have this air of living with "fortissimo". His love and forgiveness, strength and protection should move us to strike whatever harp we have in our hearts.

Likewise, if we are hurting or mad at someone, we should turn to none other than God. Again, he knows our hearts and our anger and our pain and the humanness we have in wanting someone else to pay for whatever pain we're experiencing. In turning over THIS to Him, we allow God to take care of everything instead of harboring negativity in our hearts.

ANNA GARCIA LUCAS

NOON AND 7 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES SERVICES

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19

PSALMS: A.M. 37:1-18 P.M. 37:19-42, DEUT 7:6-11, TITUS 1:1-16, JOHN 1:29-34

JOHN 1:29-34

These verses say to me everyone could be their own John. In some ways, all of us are. We too do things that seem silly, like baptizing with simply water. Despite what others may think, we believe in what we are doing and we know that it is not for nothing.

ALEJANDRA MONTGOMERY

PRAY FOR THE ELECTION OF OUR NEW BISHOP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

PSALMS: A.M. 95, 31 P.M. 35, DEUT 7:12-16, TITUS 2:1-15, JOHN 1:35-42

JOHN 1:35-42 THE FIRST DISCIPLES OF JESUS

How simple it was for Jesus to find his disciples, and for them to have such faith that they were prepared to give up all they had and follow him.

Can you imagine how disciples would be chosen in 2015? It would be a Hollywood spectacular; there would be hundreds of contestants lining the streets for days. The set would be magnificent flashing lights revolving doors and a golden throne where Jesus would be sitting, and the row of famous judges wearing outlandish costumes. I'm sure the twelve winners would be given millions of dollars and contracts to sign, and within days some of them would be on the front of all the supermarket tabloids because something would have shown up from a murky past.

What faith the disciples had, or was it that Jesus had some kind of presence about him that they just knew this was truly the Messiah? I strive daily to find that kind of faith, to really hand over all my life so I can say I walk in the footsteps of God. Truth be told, I walk with him when it's easy or when I really need some help, my goal during Lent this year is to learn to walk in all his footsteps not just the easy ones.

JULIET PHILLIPS

PRAY FOR THE ELECTION OF OUR NEW BISHOP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

PSALMS: A.M. 30, 32 P.M. 42, 43, DEUT 7:17-26, TITUS 3:1-15, JOHN 1:43-51

JOHN 1:43-51

To me this passage really showed me what it means to follow Jesus.

The disciples who went to follow Jesus just dropped everything and left. Nowadays, I think it would be very hard to just drop everything you own, like toys, books, and even phones to go follow Jesus. I know that it would be hard for me to drop everything of emotional value. I'm sure it would all be worth it in the end to be one of the few who got to be disciples.

MEGAN RUDMAN

PRAY FOR THE ELECTION OF OUR NEW BISHOP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

PSALMS: A.M. 63, 98 P.M. 103, DEUT 8:1-10, 1 COR 1:17-31,
MARK 2:18-22

MARK 2:18-22

In Mark we read that Jesus faces down the Pharisees once again while they try to trap him. Their complaint this time is that he and his disciples are breaking the rules because they are not fasting on the Sabbath. Jesus begins to talk to them about joy and how important it is to rejoice while the bridegroom remains with wedding party.

This made me think about our old friends and neighbors in Connecticut, Mel and Dorothy Horowitz. Mel had been a MASH doctor in Korea and knew the real "Hawkeye." And Dorothy had published their letters from that time. We were impressed! These dear Jewish friends invited us into the heart of their large extended family to Sabbath dinners and Seders and Bar Mitzvahs. Two days before the wedding of a grandchild, Mel's sister died suddenly. I asked Dorothy if the wedding would be postponed. "Oh, no," she exclaimed. "For Jews, the joyful occasion always takes precedence. While there is time to grieve, our God wants us to rejoice that creation and life are so good."

The same principle is at work here. As the central figure in the coming drama, Jesus himself, is the bridegroom and he has more than a glimmer of what lies ahead. Joy will turn to dust in their mouths before they are done. Yet they will live to see great joy again as they walk through the cross to resurrection. "Good" Friday will reset the foundations of the world, and death will be removed from our existence. Even in the midst of sorrow and the cares of the world, we rejoice that the bridegroom is with us in a glorious resurrection that pulls us all into paradise with him.

MOTHER BETH+

MONDAY FEBRUARY 23

PSALMS: A.M. 41, 52 P.M. 44, DEUT. 8:11-18, HEB. 2:11-18,
JOHN 2:1-12

JOHN 2:1-12 THE MIRACLE OF THE WEDDING AT CANA

When you read commentaries on Jesus' first recorded miracle, many authors (men) will talk about Mary's "sweet faith in Jesus" as she turns to him to solve the problem, which is really minor in the large scheme of things. They make the Blessed Mother sound like a child whining, "Jeeeesuuuuus. Fiiiiix iiiit!"

I always saw it as a quiet confidence. It must have seemed so long ago, yet at the same time just a short while, that Mary had pondered in her heart all those angels, and visitors from shepherds to wise men, including perhaps that blasted little drummer boy. She gave birth to this now compelling young man, for whom other men dropped their lives, jobs, and families to follow into the boondocks like Cana. I am certain she was confident and aware that miracles large and small were well within her Son's purview. Even if He said, "It is not the time", she said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it." And a miracle ensued.

Take that with you today. Servants, whatever he says to you, do it. See what miracles ensue.

LIBBI CROWE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

PSALMS: A.M. 45 P.M. 47, 48, DEUT 9:4-12, HEB 3:1-11, JOHN 2:13-22

DEUTERONOMY 9: 4-12

In the passage, the elderly Moses tells us that if we are brought in to possess land, do not think to yourself that God let you possess the land because of your righteousness, but because of the wickedness of nations the Lord your God is driving out before you, and because God is fulfilling the promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

I believe that this means if a good thing happens to you, do not think that he gave you it because you did good deeds, but instead that he gave it to you because of His grace. This is also reminding you not to become full of yourself because God is helping you. I believe that this is a good lesson to learn, and that this lesson is vital for a good and humble future.

BILLY COLLINS

6 P.M. SOUP SUPPER AND LENTEN PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

PSALMS: A.M. 119:49-72, P.M.: 49, 53, DEUT 9:13-21, HEB 3:12-19, JOHN 2:23-3:15

JOHN 2:23-3:15

Oh, snap, Nicodemus. Jesus really schooled you. "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

Yet maybe Jesus was being too hard on him, I think. These things are difficult for mere mortals to grasp, unless you are Mary, the Mother of God. (She understood right away, but hey, that's why she got the job.)

You can talk about wind, and rebirth of the Spirit, and snakes in the wilderness, but Jesus is not just a metaphor: God actually, truly DOES so love the world, that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should have everlasting life.

That's hard enough--but wrap your head around this: "whoever" includes everyone. Gentile, Jew, Arab, Asian, Auburn fans, Alabama fans, you....even me.

Thanks be to God!

LIBBI CROWE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26

PSALMS: A.M. 50, 59, 60 P.M. 19, 46, DEUT 9:23-10:5, HEB 4:1-10, JOHN 3:16-21

HEB 4: 1- 10

Hebrews 4:1-10 is all about the 7th day of the week, Sunday, our Sabbath day. In my first semester of college I have learned just how important our day of rest is.

Every week I have new challenges to overcome, tests, papers, and countless hours submerged in material that will prepare me for the upcoming week. By the end of each week I'm exhausted mentally and physically. Through this exhaustion I have learned that I need a day off, I need a day to unwind and regroup. Occasionally however, I feel guilty about it. I feel guilty because each moment I spend watching Netflix is a moment I could have spent studying.

But this passage reminds us how important our Sabbath day is. God himself asks for rest, and for all of those who follow him to rest. Sunday allows us to reflect on the week and prepare for the next. We thank God for all of our blessings on Sunday, or we thank God that he gave us the strength just to get through the week. Either way on Sundays we rest our minds, bodies, and souls. So cherish the Sabbath day, and remember at the end of every long week is a Sunday.

Amen.

JAKE PHILLIPS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

PSALMS: A.M.. 40, 54 P.M. 51, DEUT. 10:12-22, HEBREWS 4:11-16, JOHN 3:22-36

PSALM 51 VERSES 10 -12 DAVID'S PRAYER.

This Psalm is one of my favorites and is familiar to us, because parts of it are in the liturgy.

"Create in me a clean heart O God"

Remove envy, greed and intolerance from my heart.

"Renew a right spirit within me".

Grant me a willing, kind spirit.

"Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy holy Spirit from me."

Keep me near you in heart and mind.

"Restore to me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit."

Keep me mindful of all you have given to me and for me. Amen.

SALLY STRICKLING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

PSALMS: A.M. 55; P.M.: 138, 139, DEU.T 11:18-28, HEBREWS 5:1-10, JOHN 4:1-26

PSALM 139

God knows each one of us inside out, back to front and upside down. He KNOWS us. Everything little thing about us. Every big thing about us. There is no hiding from God's knowledge of us. He knew us whilst we were being formed in the womb. He knows our thoughts.

The most wonderful thing is that knowing every little thing about me God still loves me and wants to call me his child. He will lead me in the way everlasting. I just need to follow.

Amen.

JANET WRIGHT

SUNDAY MARCH 1

PSALMS: A.M. 24, 29 P.M. 8, 84, JEREMIAH 1:1-10, 1 COR 3:11-23, MARK 3:31-4:9

You are God's temple and his spirit dwells within you (1 Corinthians 3:11-23). The Lord has known you always and he speaks and does great works through you (Jeremiah 1:1-10). Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? He who had clean hands and a pure heart, and who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully (Psalm 24). But the [seeds] that were sown on good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit (Mark 3:31- 4:9).

Notice anything about these readings? I definitely did. They all say something about how you need to prepare yourself to be a vessel through which God shines. Now what instantly came to my mind when reading these scriptures was running races. I've run a couple of 5Ks and a few half marathons so I know that the only way that you complete such an event is through training and eating healthy. You

have to prepare not only your body but also your mind to push past the exhaustion, hunger, pain, the feelings of inadequacy, the thoughts of "why the heck did I decide to do this in the first place?!?"

If you don't train and prepare, then you could end up hurt or very disappointed that you didn't give it your all.

It is the same with your faith and spirit. If you don't take the time to train through prayer and service, or let yourself get caught up in yourself instead putting God first, then you're not fulfilling God's plan for you. He knows that we'll stumble and fall, of course, and some days we just won't feel like doing anything (I know that I am definitely guilty of this!). But God has laid out our training plan right there in the bible. Strengthen your foundation in Christ so that you can receive His word and go out into the world to shine God's love on the world!

A prayer to keep up your training:

Show me how to strengthen my foundation in You, Lord, so that I may be a pure heart through which you shine. Amen!

JEN KENTGEN

FIRST SUNDAY: ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M., FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL PARISH MEETING, AND THEN BRUNCH!

MONDAY, MARCH 2

PSALMS: A.M. 56, 57, 58 P.M. 64, 65, JEREMIAH 1:11-19,
ROMANS 1:1-15, JOHN 4:27-42

JOHN 4:27-42

We know the Jews looked down on the Samaritans, and besides this Samaritan is a *woman*, so when the disciples returned from seeking food in the town, "They marveled that He was talking with a woman."

That woman went away and testified to her experience and many others came to know Christ because of that sharing. The fact that Jesus spent time talking to this Samaritan woman validates all women in all cultures. Even more, it shows again that Jesus wanted to reach those who are marginalized and diminished by cultural values.

But the real point of the story is that people took time to discuss this with the woman at the well, with each other and with Jesus Himself. Then, they could tell her, " "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

Sharing, discussing and believing. Christian life in a nutshell.

ANONYMOUS

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

PSALMS: A.M. 61, 62 P.M. 68, JEREMIAH 2:1-13, ROMANS 1:16-25, JOHN 4:43-54

ROMANS VERSES 16 AND 17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, " He who through faith is righteous shall live".

These verses are the cornerstone of the reformation, which began with Martin Luther's 95 Theses. The 62nd theses says " The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel, of the glory and grace of God."

From this we get the "Scripture Alone" statement the Bible is the source of our faith life, not tradition, or human pronouncements handed down by churches. We can read God's word and of Jesus' work ourselves.

Then we have "Grace Alone" We are saved by God's grace only, which came to us in Jesus Christ.

And "Faith Alone" We are saved because we have faith in God's mercy. We believe Jesus is really" for me". What a powerful statement that is, JESUS IS FOR ME.

Dear God, Thank you for your word, which tells us about your grace and that Jesus is for us. Amen

SALLY STRICKLING

6 P.M. SOUP SUPPER AND LENTEN PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

PSALMS: A.M. 72 P.M. 119:73-96, JEREMIAH 3:6-18, ROMANS 1:28-2:11, JOHN 5:1-18

JOHN 5:1-18

What memories this passage from John brings up for me. About five years ago, Bud and I made a pilgrimage to Israel with a group from Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford, CT. The tour included a stop at Bethesda – the area of the ancient pools and the beautiful Roman church called St. Ann built right next to them. The pools have been partially excavated so that you can see the five porches and two baths. In the 2,000+ years since Jesus' time about 200 feet of dirt has drifted down and layered over most of the sites we read about in the gospels. So unless people have intentionally kept an area swept or shoveled throughout those years the actual earth that Jesus walked upon needs to be excavated. That is the case for the pools of Bethesda. So one stands in the side yard of the church looking way down at the excavation some 200 feet down. There is sidewalk all the way around the excavation site.

As I sat there, I thought about the man who had been ill for 38 years. I could just imagine him on his pallet as Jesus came to him and healed him. It gave me the shivers to think that this all happened right where I sat. I knew this was holy ground. Sometimes I take all those healing stories for granted because they are so ubiquitous, but not this time.

Think of it! Our Lord was forever healing somebody. It is just so ordinary, and so telling! Our God is for health and salvation and is grieved for those who suffer any kind of trouble. Healing isn't always possible for reasons unknown to us. But there is enough healing to tell us that our wellbeing is the will of our Lord.

Meanwhile a group of nuns who were also making a pilgrimage were chanting beautiful Taize hymns inside of St. Ann. The acoustics in this church built some time in the 1200s are exquisite. Tradition has it that this site was the home of Mary's parents, Ann and Joachim, and Mary was supposedly born here. As the haunting chants wafted

over our group, the feeling of being in a thin place continued for me. The veil between heaven and earth seemed very thin. Christians have trod this path since time out of mind, and I was touched to the core to be among them.

MOTHER BETH+

6:30 P.M. CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY FOR MOTHER BETH.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

PSALMS A.M: 70, 71, P.M: PSALM 74, JEREMIAH 4:9-10, 19-28, ROMANS 2:12-24, JOHN5: 19-29.

PSALM 71

Psalm 71 was written by an old man. This man has known many problems but throughout the Psalm there is evidence that he is joyful, able to be focused on the Lord through these hard times. He is looking forward to a bright future in the presence of His Lord. It is a reflection of a life full of hope, praise and trust. It is sharing the knowledge that developing a walk with God now is God's way to grow old. This man knew his God in a personal, practical and proven way.

We can grow old in God's way by being firm in our hope of His loving forgiveness, praising him in every action we take, every word we speak, every interaction with our fellow beings, and trusting always that God has our best interests at the centre of his being. He loves us and cares for us.

Amen.

JANET WRIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

PSALMS: A.M. 69 P.M.: 73, JEREMIAH 5:1-9, ROMANS 2:25-3:18, JOHN 5:30-47

69 PSALM: 5-6

O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You. Let not those who wait for You, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed because of me; let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.

What a huge request to make of God: to let me, foolish and sinful that I am, serve as an example to those seeking Him. I cannot imagine a more impossible task! But as I try, failing time and time again, He continues to lift me up and Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink (69 Psalm: 14). And in lifting me up, my failure becomes His success for all to see.

JANICE BURNS

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

PSALMS: A.M. 75, 76 P.M.: 23, 27, JEREMIAH 5:20-31, ROMANS 3:19-31, JOHN 7:1-13

PSALM 23

My mother had a well-worn copy of "The Song of Our Syrian Guest," that I read several times while growing up. This short book was written over 100 years ago (and can be downloaded to your Kindle for free), and I highly recommend it.

Toward the end, is this passage: "*The song dies away as the heart that God has watched and tended breathes this grateful vow before the roaming of the day is forgotten in sleep: 'I will'- not shall, but will, for it is a decision, a settled purpose, a holy vow-- 'I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.' And the song ends, and the sheep are at rest, safe in the good shepherd's fold.*"

The imagery of this psalm never fails to comfort, to uplift, and to console us.

LIBBI CROWE

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

PSALMS: A.M. 93, 96 P.M. 34, JEREMIAH 6:9-15, 1 COR 6:12-20, MARK 5:1-20

PSALMS 96, 34

In reading Psalm 96, I feel the excitement, joy and wonder of who God is and has been and will be forever. It's a comfort that we simply cannot and won't find anywhere else! He was, is and always will be there for us which segues beautifully into Psalm 34.

"I will bless the Lord at all times"

Easy to say and read but sometimes can be hard to do during times of anger or pain or sorrow. There are many times when thanking God for His love and blessings when someone I love dies or is hurting, when the world around me seems so full of evil or I simply cannot make sense of someone's hatred or violence. I want to stomp my foot and yell at Him for letting these things happen. Sometimes I fall back into my early upbringing and believe that He's punishing me for my sins. I forget that He is the most perfect Father and truly wants good things for me.

There are times that we have to purposely search for blessing in disaster. We have to faithfully look with unconditional love at the world and people around us and find God in them and in doing so, we bless Him. We glorify Him in our openness to His love and blessings. Sometimes it takes another person to help us see, sometimes it takes us being still, sometimes it takes our cries of anguish to leave us at the bottom of our lives so we are forced to look up to Him.

ANNA GARCIA LUCAS

MONDAY, MARCH 9

PSALMS: A.M. 80 P.M. 77, 79, JEREMIAH 7:1-15, ROMANS 4:1-12, JOHN 7:14-36

ROMANS 4:1-12

Ha ha ha! As a little girl, I used to giggle whenever I read "circumcised". I only connected it with a baby boy's circumcision and then much later in life, painfully for girls.

As an adult and particularly in re-reading Scripture with a more mature sense, experience and personal growth, I take this a couple different ways.

Circumcision was performed on males and in many cases, the culture at the time lifted males above females. As a female both growing up and in many circumstances now, that is still the case. How wonderful is it, then, that our Father gives us all the opportunity to be sealed by His righteousness, to be blessed regardless of gender? This was a beautiful realization for me especially growing up in the Roman Catholic faith.

Likewise, every one of us can receive this blessing regardless of where or how we grew up, our culture, our race, our gender or environment. We only have to present ourselves to the Lord and by faith, He seals us. We all count! Where on our earth, in our systems, in our human anything does this always happen? Only with God, only out of His love and our faith.

ANNA GARCIA LUCAS

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

PSALMS: A.M. 78:1-39 P.M. 78:40-72, JEREMIAH 7:21-34,
ROMANS 4:13-25, JOHN 7:37-52

JOHN 7-37-52

I chose the passages from John as these verses spoke to me in a great voice.

John in chapter 7-37 says that Christ is the Living water --"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me And let the one who believes in me--out of the believers heart shall flow river of loving water".

As a follower of my Savior, I think this Scripture speaks to our deepest faith. I pray daily that I drink of the Living Water in all my life.

For His Sake,

JACKYE JENSEN

6 P.M. SOUP SUPPER AND LENTEN PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

PSALMS: A.M. 119:97-120 P.M. 81, 82, JEREMIAH 8:18-9:6,
ROMANS 5:1-11, JOHN 8:12-20

JOHN 8:12-20

When I first read John 8:1-20, two parts immediately came to my notice.

1. Jesus spoke to the woman accused of adultery and Moses had commanded that she be stoned.

2. The Scribes and Pharisees almost demanded that He agree with the verdict but He said to the woman that he did not condemn her and that she should go and sin no more.

These two parts are quite well known to most parishioners but I was drawn to the dialogue between Jesus and the Scribes and the Pharisees starting with verse 12. I wondered if they really understood the meaning of the words when He talked of the relationship of He and his Father. I asked myself if I would have understood if I had been in the Temple that day. I doubt it, but on this day I can say unequivocally I understand, even if I have trouble putting it into words - not unlike some Priests struggling with sermon on Trinity Sunday.

I BELIEVE AND I HAVE FAITH.

KATE WILSON

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

PSALMS: A.M. 42, 43 P.M. 85, 86, JEREMIAH 10:11-24, ROMANS 5:12-21, JOHN 8:21-32

JEREMIAH 10:11-24

Can you sense the discouragement in the passage from Jeremiah? The old covenantal system that God first initiated with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was becoming more and more difficult for both Yahweh and his chosen and beloved people. It seems to me as if the world was groaning over and through the failure of the Jews to live up to the sacrificial system of worship and righteousness with their God. Then when we read Romans we can see Paul trying to verbalize the shift from the old covenant system to the new one brought about through the gift of Jesus Christ.

No longer would we have to work our way out of the mess of human nature by trying our best to behave. Somehow or another we always ended up in failure because no matter how God held up his end of the bargain, we just failed and failed. We clearly didn't have what it took, and one gets the sense that God was getting pretty frustrated. The great miracle of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ made all the difference in the world, and Paul struggles so hard to tell the wonder of it. Surely we understand how hard it is to comprehend the great mystery of it! So we do our best to live that good news and the new covenant. While the old system involved sacrifice through animals and following thousands of rules, the new covenant is pretty simple. It involves loving others as God loves us and believing in our Lord Jesus Christ. Though we often fall short, we take heart that our God forgives all our failures and loves us through them.

MOTHER BETH+

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

PSALMS: A.M. 88 P.M. 91, 92, JEREMIAH 11:1-8, 14-20, ROMANS 6:1-11, JOHN 8:33-47

ROMANS 6: 1-11

There is a surety in my heart, in my soul, that Christ died for me. Yet I continue to sin. What is wrong with me! What more could He possibly do to show the depth of His love for me?

An answer comes: Shh...cease questioning and be still. The ultimate deed has been done; the ultimate price has been paid. Each day is new. Each moment is new. Each heartbeat is new^{1/4} go and sin no more.

JANICE BURNS

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

PSALMS: A.M. 87, 90 P.M. 136, JEREMIAH 13:1-11, ROMANS 6:12-23, JOHN 8:47-59

PSALM 136

This psalm to me is a litany: a prayer of different petitions that are said or sung by the leader and fixed responses by the congregation. In this case the "petitions" are adorations, or praise.

Usually, "Litany" brings to mind The Great Litany, which is of woe, and sin, and repentance. We also have the Litany of Penitence for Ash Wednesday (pp. 267-269); a Litany at the Time of Death (pp. 462-464); a Litany for Ordinations, which we use in Celebration of a New Ministry (pp. 548-551, 560); a Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church, (pp. 577-579); and a Litany of Thanksgiving (pp. 836-837). The Book of Occasional Services includes a Litany of Healing in a public service of healing, which we use on Wednesday mornings, and a Litany for the Church.

Psalm 136 is a litany of thanksgiving and joy in all the wonders of God's works, from the stars in the heavens to the hand of God in the history of his people.

Through this day, and this night, as the world turns, and the water sparkles, and the dolphins play, and finally, the stars shine, say to yourself, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good./His love endures forever." Amen

LIBBI CROWE

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

PSALMS: A.M. 66, 67 P.M. 19, 46, JEREMIAH 14:1-9, 17-22, GAL 4:21-5:1, MARK 8:11-21

MARK 8:11-21 "THE NEED FOR A SIGN"

In this reading, I picture Jesus shaking his head at first the Pharisees', then his own apostles', need for a physical sign or proof of heavenly intervention. Jesus initially tells his doubters that "no sign will be given to this generation", so there. As he and his disciples get in a boat and travel, he overhears them saying "Oh, shoot, we forgot to bring food. Whatever shall we do?" Remember, this is after they have witnessed him feeding the five thousand. Jesus sternly reminds them of that feat and incredulously asks, "How can you not understand?"

Unfortunately for Jesus, there are a lot of things about humans that do not make sense. Recently, a British comedian named Stephen Fry made headlines with his suggestion that he would admonish God upon arriving in Heaven. He would ask God "What's up with children getting bone cancer" or "What kind of cruel Creator would allow bad things to happen". Now I'm shaking my head. Much like a four year old child, we humans love to think we have all the answers. If we can't understand it, it must be stupid. Or wrong.

Internet sites nowadays purport to explain the physiology of the human body to lay people whilst the best and brightest minds in our medical schools take a full year to comprehend it, and only barely so. Clinicians have created a term called "idiopathic" to describe so many of the unknown and mysterious conditions that afflict the human body, only because "idiopathic" as a term sounds more pleasing to the human ear than a simple "we don't really know why".

It is extremely difficult in this life to accept that there are things beyond our comprehension. Once you accept this, you learn to enjoy the majesty of God's creation and each gift you are given. Poor "educated" Stephen Fry, who is probably cool with the fact he can't understand something as simple as a Southern drawl, finds it impossible to accept that he can't understand something as intricate as God's plan. And Jesus is shaking his head.

JOEL RUDMAN

MONDAY, MARCH 16

PSALMS: A.M. 89:1-18 P.M. 89:19-52, JEREMIAH 16:10-21,
ROMANS 7:1-12, JOHN 6:1-15

JOHN 6 1-15

John is the New Testament Gospel that I so love. John's Testament is written from great love of Christ! I have always loved the story of "the two barley loaves and five fishes" to feed large numbers of followers of Jesus.

This story to me has two stories:

1. The physical feeding of the "large followers "
2. the most meaningful to me, CHRIST, while feeding their physical bodies, also did the most wonderful and beautiful thing: He fed THEIR SOULS.

Are we not being fed both in body and soul By Christ when we receive Holy Communion? When we partake of the Body and Blood of our Savior, I think we to are like those sitting in the Fields in the Galilee bring nourished by Christ.

May The LORD bless you and shine upon you and give you PEACE.

FOR HIS SAKE,

JACKYE THOMPSON JENSEN

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

PSALMS: A.M. 97, 99, 100 P.M. 94, 95, JEREMIAH 17:19-27,
ROMANS 7:13-25, JOHN 6:16-27

JOHN 6:16-27

When I was a child, my father was bigger than life. To me he could walk on water, and when I was with him life's fears had no hold. Life was a grand adventure. As I grew and entered school, the teachers and professors that taught me were the ones who could walk on water. They had wisdom and perspective that I could not fully fathom. When around them I loved life's mysteries. Then, when I entered the workplace, there were scientists and engineers who were bigger than life. Everything made sense to them and more so to me when I worked with them. They inspired me to do greater things and to love using knowledge to create new things.

We know we are growing older when those we once held in such high esteem cease to be bigger than life. A part of our soul is lost in this journey. Then at some point we realize that we must take on the burden of walking on water. It is a strange feeling indeed when you see yourself in your children or in the new engineer in the office and realize that in their eyes you are the one that can calm the tempest. You are the one who inspires them to take on life's challenges and have faith in their abilities.

As is said of the prophet Elijah, the Gospels proclaim that Jesus walked on water. He had the power to calm the wind and waves that beat upon his disciples. With Him they saw the love of the Creator for his creation and felt that love inside themselves. One of the lessons I have learned is that walking on water is not a skill that can be learned. We are all capable of "walking on water" if it is God's will, but walking on water is primarily in the eyes of the beholder. We are but players in a larger play, the meaning of which is hard to discern. Jesus often said that it was not He who performed the miracles, but the Father through Him. This we should strive for - to allow God to work through us. If God wills that we walk on water, we will walk on water. We must however be receptive to His will. We cannot both be

the miracle and observe the miracle. If we try, we will find ourselves chest deep and sinking fast. In prayer we should offer up our lives to serve the will of God. I am no one, yet I am everyone. In silence I will find the will of God. Without effort I walk on water through the power of God.

TONY THOMPSON

6 P.M. SOUP SUPPER AND LENTEN PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

PSALMS: A.M. 101, 109 P.M. 119:121-144, JEREMIAH 18:1-11, ROMANS 8:1-11, JOHN 6:27-40

JOHN 6: 27-40

John's gospel was written to tell us of some of the signs Jesus performed, so we can believe in Him.

These verses happen the day after the feeding of the multitude, and the people have come to Jesus wanting to know more about Him. They wanted more signs, more miracles. Jesus told them and thus tells us " I am the bread of life" As we need bread to nourish our bodies, we need Jesus to nourish our souls. If we accept Him, He will never reject us.

Verse 40 says," For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." What more can we ask for? What more do we need to hear? That says it all.

Dear Lord, Thank you for the gift of the Bread of Life, and help me to remember to nourish not only my body but my soul also. Amen

SALLY STRICKLING

THURSDAY MARCH 19

PSALMS: AM: 69 P.M. 73, JEREMIAH 22:13-23, ROMANS 8:12-27, JOHN 6:41-51

Do you believe in ghosts? Years ago I may have answered differently.

Even though I was born into a Christian home and have been a Christian since birth, I never thought much about the Holy Spirit until just a few years ago. Even though I became an Episcopalian in the 70's and have recited the Nicene Creed every Sunday for over 40 years, I can remember the day in 2008 standing here in St Augustine's in the third row from the back that it really hit me "I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, The Giver of Life."

Why did God give us the Holy Spirit? Romans 8:16 says "God's Spirit joins Himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's Children". What a wonderful gift. Romans 8:23 says it was God's first gift to us.

The Spirit has another important role. Romans 8:26 says "in the same way, the Spirit comes to help us pray." "The Spirit Himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express and God sees our hearts and knows the thought of the Spirit". It's ok if we don't know what to pray for - God knows before we do what we need because of His connection to our spirit.

DONNA NARDUCCI

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

PSALMS: A.M. 107:1-32 P.M. 107:33-43, JEREMIAH 23:1-8,
ROMANS 8:28-39, JOHN 6:52-59

JOHN 6:52-59

If someone came up to me and told me to eat their flesh or drink their blood, my natural reaction would be to quickly decline. Jesus told the Jews those exact words. I know when Jesus said that he did not mean to physically take a bite out of his knuckle. The bread represents his body and the wine represents his blood that he sacrificed for us to take away our sins.

Every Sunday when we take communion we are allowing Jesus to come into our bodies and guide us in the right direction. He lives inside of us. Maybe not physically but definitely deep inside our souls.

KATIE COLLINS

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

PSALMS: A.M. 102, 108 P.M. 33, JEREMIAH 23:9-15, ROMANS
9:1-18, JOHN 6:60-71

JOHN 6:60-71

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life;" (John 6: 66). This was in response to Jesus asking the twelve if they too wished to go away like many of the crowds who had been eagerly following him.

The crowds were beginning to draw back from Jesus because his words were becoming difficult to accept. They protested that he was making hard statements that they felt no one could or should listen to. This was not the miracle maker, easy savior whom they wanted to embrace. Now they were being challenged to believe what they could

not see. He was clearly mad-- talking about eating his flesh to obtain eternal life --calling himself the " bread of life". (Vs 48).

Peter, an honest man, clearly did not understand either ; but he had faith. He understood that though he did not fully comprehend Jesus' words, he believed that Jesus was in truth the Holy One of God and would not deceive them. What a glorious example for us today.

In my own life I know that I often do not like what I know God is saying to me. I want an easier way to achieve His will. I want the difficult people in my life to see the light. I want the difficult situations in my life to be resolved without discomfort. I want all to be well with everyone and for all of us to live in peace and harmony. I want. I want.

God wants, I believe for me and for each of us , to trust Him. He wants us to have faith in His plans and to know that there are consequences for our choices. He wants us to listen and to follow. He wants us to know how much we are loved always even when we doubt.

To paraphrase Peter--what else can we do? Where else can we go ? We can, we must, continue to stumble along with our Lord, knowing that He is always there to steady us and to guide us. Thanks be to God.

CHARLEEN CLARK

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

PSALMS: A.M. 118 P.M. 145, JEREMIAH 23:16-32, 1 COR 9:19-27, MARK 8:31-9:1

PSALM 118

I have chosen selected verses out of this Psalm.

(1)--O give thanks to The Lord, for HE is good. His steadfast love endures forever!

(5).I called out my distress, I called upon the Lord ,the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

The Lord is good-and does stay with us all through life's distresses. The LORD certainly has blessed me and been with me these last four years!

For His Sake,

JACKYE THOMPSON JENSEN

MONDAY, MARCH 23

PSALMS: A.M. 31 P.M. 35, JEREMIAH 24:1-10, ROMANS 9:19-33, JOHN 9:1-17

JEREMIAH 24:1-10

Jeremiah was a major prophet of the Hebrew people. Being a prophet was a very tough job! God used prophets to deliver truth to his people, and back then – just like now – people didn't necessarily want to hear the truth. People got so mad at Jeremiah for what he said that they threw him in prison, tried to kill him and threw him down into a cistern!

Whenever you hear the words, "Thus says the Lord," from a prophet, know that these are God's words spoken through the prophet's mouth. Through all the prophets, God tried to pull his beloved people back on track. He loved them so much, but they just didn't get it and kept right on sinning. They tuned out the prophets (or throw them into the well). But in spite of the good "figs" and the bad ones, God finally realized that there was a better way to make things right with his people. The new plan involved sending his only son to be in the midst of his people so that they could see, through him, how much God loved them. And by some great mystery, that son's death on the cross and his resurrection accomplished what the prophets were trying to do to make us righteous in the sight of the Lord.

MOTHER BETH+

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

PSALMS: A.M. 121, 122, 123 P.M. 124, 125, 126, JEREMIAH 25:8-17, ROMANS 10:1-13, JOHN 9:18-41

PSALM 122: STEPPING INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Recently, the congregation was asked to write down and place in the offering plate what was the most important reason we came to our church. It was the first time I really had to nail down the main reason that I am a churchgoer. I wrote down that I come to church mainly to show reverence and to worship and praise God, to be closer to God.

What Jerusalem was for the Israelites, the church is to the believer. Just as the Israelites traveled to Jerusalem in a distant and often hostile land, journeying and ascending to the temple for the annual feasts, believers go to church to be closer to God. Being part of a congregation of believers can also be seen as a step in one's faith journey.

In faith, the believer seeks the peace of completeness, health, justice, prosperity and protection. Once we step into the presence of God close together as believers, we seek this peace on behalf of others as well, in intercessory prayer and intercessory acts. But the main reason for our stepping into our church building is to worship God. We can then carry the peace of God's righteousness through Jesus Christ out into the world through ourselves.

DONNA HOWARD

6 P.M. SOUP SUPPER AND LENTEN PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

PSALMS: A.M. 119:145-176 P.M. 128, 129, 130, JEREMIAH 25:30-38, ROMANS 10:14-21, JOHN 10:1-18

JOHN 10:1-18

Over and over in Chapter 10 of John's gospel, Jesus reminds us that the defining act of His presence on Earth is the sacrifice of His life for us: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep," "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep," "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again." This act of sacrifice deserves daily contemplation; the Son of God became man and endured suffering, torture, and insults for us, that we might know the love of the Father and have the opportunity to spend eternity in His presence.

I was raised a Catholic. When I first went to an Episcopal Church, what made the biggest impression upon me was the lack of a crucifix over the altar. As visual beings, nothing impacts what we feel more than what we see... or don't see. A Catholic Church is filled with icons, including the crucifix over the altar, that create a meditative atmosphere and remind us of the deep meaning of Christianity. I always felt I was in a holy, sacred place when I entered a Catholic church when growing up. I fully understand the academic arguments for removing the crucifix from the altar; however, when King James replaced the crucifix with a plain cross in the 16th Century, I can't help but feel that the more austere, more sanitized environment created removes us one step from the essence of Christianity. In some ways, this would be like being at war and banning the publication of pictures of the death and destruction that remind us of the ultimate sacrifice made to preserve our liberty. To this day, when I walk into our church, I miss seeing the image of Jesus Christ over the altar, an image that always reminded me of the sacrifice made for me. While it is unconventional, there are counterexamples to the plain cross tradition, for example, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Phoenix has a large crucifix above the altar, hand carved in Oberammergau Germany.

I often look above the altar in our little church and imagine the image of Christ crucified, but equally as often I imagine how beautiful it would be to have the image of Christ with arms outstretched rising above our elegant but austere cross. Whether the image of Christ is there to inspire us or not, what is important is that we remember that our church is the House of God, a holy place of worship, more than a source of social support, that should stimulate prayerful contemplation of the immense sacrifice that God incarnate made for us.

TONY THOMPSON

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

PSALMS: A.M. 131, 132, 133 P.M. 140, 142, JEREMIAH 26:1-16, ROMANS 11:1-12, JOHN 10:19-42

PSALM 140

I have just finished watching the evening news and feel totally lost. How could a human being lock someone in a cage and set fire to them? I believed that that kind of behavior was long gone--how very naïve I must be. I turned off the television and as I put the remote on the table saw my Bible and devotional sitting there, it had been sitting there since I brought it home in January, and there it was Psalm 140.

*Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men; /Protect me from men of violence.
Who devise evil plans in their hearts/And stir up war every day.
They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's;/The poison of vipers
is on their lips.*

You may want to read the rest of the Psalm. The call for God's help somehow makes me feel a little safer.

JULIET PHILLIPS

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

PSALMS: A.M. 22 P.M. 141, 143, JEREMIAH 29:1, 4-13, ROMANS 11:13-24, JOHN 11:1-27 OR 12:1-10

JOHN 11:1-27 "LAZARUS"

My reading was about Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, who rose from the dead. Lazarus was very sick, but Jesus was convinced he would be OK. He did not panic or rush to see him. He told his followers Lazarus was just sick or was sleeping. Finally, he told his followers Lazarus was dead. Then he went to visit. By the time he got there, Lazarus had been dead for 4 days.

Jesus made a promise, saying whoever believes in him would have eternal life. Not only did he love Lazarus and raise him from the dead, he loves me too. It makes me feel he's giving this promise to all of us. He offers eternal life if we believe. I feel thankful for what he's done. This promise makes me want to believe and show kindness to others. I am grateful to Jesus Christ.

EVAN RUDMAN

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

PSALMS: A.M. 137, 144 P.M. 42, 43, JEREMIAH 31:27-34, ROMANS 11:25-36, JOHN 11:28-44 OR 12:37-50

“WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, ‘LAZARUS, COME OUT!’ THE DEAD MAN CAME OUT, HIS HANDS AND FEET BOUND WITH STRIPS OF CLOTH, AND HIS FACE WRAPPED IN A CLOTH. JESUS SAID TO THEM, ‘UNBIND HIM, AND LET HIM GO.’”

Oh, what an amazing story is the tale of Lazarus being raised from the dead! We all know about Martha and Mary and how they could squabble over just who did what. But they are united in grief in this story. They’d sent for Jesus when their brother got so sick. They had faith that Jesus could heal Lazarus. But Jesus didn’t get there in time. Their hearts were broken, and they were devastated by Jesus’ failure to arrive and save their brother.

What always strikes me about this story is how deeply Jesus feels the pain of this family even as he knows it will soon be made right with Lazarus! He knows (surely) that he will bring Lazarus back to life, yet he stops to grieve with Martha and Mary. What does this say about our redeemer? To me, it says that even as he knows that all will be made right with each of us in the end, he also understands that we suffer so deeply at times in our earthly journey. Our pain touches the heart of Jesus even now and even though each of us will live eternal lives of joy and bliss when we are resurrected. This is an incredible gift that brings me much comfort!

MOTHER BETH +

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

PSALMS: A.M. 24, 29 P.M. 103, PSALMS: A.M. ZECH 9:9-12 P.M. ZECH 12:9-13:9, 1 TIM 6:12-16, MATT 21:12-17

After reading all the passages I noticed a correlation between them. In Zechariah 9:9-12 describes the coming of the Jesus: “See your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation.” In Zechariah 12:9-13:9 we find that the coming of the King will come with a cost: “They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child.”

1 Timothy 6:12-16. describes the need to seek for salvation, because it will be something that we will have to continuously work for and it may not come easily. “Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confessions in the presence of many witnesses.”

In Matthew 21:12-17, Jesus enters the temple courts and to drive out those buying and selling “forgiveness for sins,” showing us that sins can not be forgiven by money.

Lord you came to us and gave us the ultimate sacrifice by paying for my sins with your life. I pray for you to guide me in fighting the good fight of faith. Amen.

MATTHEW KENTGEN

MONDAY MARCH 30

PSALMS: A.M. :51, P.M.: 69: 1-23, JEREMIAH 12:1-16, PHIL 3:1-14, JOHN 12:9-19.

PSALM 51

We often use the words of David, the poet king of Israel in prayer, in reflections and sometimes just to remind ourselves that we are human beings, frail in faith. David himself was no virtuous, upright role model to be followed slavishly. Indeed, he was anything but that. David was a sinner, a man who stayed at home whilst his armies fought, self-indulgent, a womanizer, lusting after the wife of another, a selfish, uncaring friend, a murderer. His is not a life of light anyone would want to follow but having fallen from grace David learned to hate his sin. He shows in his poetry a deep trust in the mercy of God. He cries out in his pain and struggles with great resolve to draw on the divine and seek redemption.

*10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

*12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

David cries out to the God of forgiveness knowing that he will be forgiven and sustained in his search for a better life. We can do the same and then we can follow the direction of v15 of this Psalm:

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. Amen

JANET WRIGHT

9:30 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

PSALMS: A.M. 6 P.M. 94, JEREMIAH 15:10-21, PHIL 3:15-21, JOHN 12:20-26

JOHN 12:20-26 "SIR, WE WISH TO SEE JESUS."

Those words were spoken by some Greeks to Philip after Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Philip, unsure how to respond to these Gentiles, prevailed upon Andrew to come with him to present their request to Jesus.

We do not know why these Greeks wanted to see Jesus. Perhaps they were attracted by the crowds who had been waving palms as he entered the city. Perhaps they had heard about Lazarus whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Perhaps they were just curious or wanted to meet a notorious "celebrity".

I prefer to believe that they were compelled by a longing too deep for logic. I would like to believe that they recognized the Creator God whom they could not name. I do believe that they were drawn by Love so complete that death could not destroy it.

Jesus responded to Philip and Andrew by saying " The time has come for the Son of man to be glorified" (v. 23). It was his last public discourse before his crucifixion.

I want to be as the Greeks. I want to see Jesus. I want to see Him in everyone I meet, in all of creation, in Scripture--even in myself. I want to seek Him in situations where I am not comfortable, in times when I feel lost or lonely, in times of joy, and in every season of my life.

In the words of the contemporary praise song: "Open my eyes, Lord, I want to see Jesus. To reach out and touch Him and say that I love Him./Open my ears Lord, and help me to listen./Open my eyes Lord and help me see Jesus."

CHARLEEN CLARK

9:30 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

PSALMS: A.M. 55 P.M. 74, JEREMIAH 17:5-10, 14-17, PHIL 4:1-13, JOHN 12:27-36

PHIL 4:1-13

My mother, Pearl, passed away on February 5 last year. It's been a hard year for me and for my five sisters. Even knowing that she was ready to be with the Lord, that she was suffering physically and even knowing that someday we will be together – it was hard. I thank my church family for their love and support during the healing process.

I chose my Lenten meditation by date, not by verse. I was pleasantly surprised to see that it had a verse that my mother loved and one that she used often.

Mom was raised in a Christian home. After high school, she graduated from Baptist Bible Seminary. She used the Bible to raise us. She wouldn't just say "don't worry", she would say "let not your heart be troubled" and then quote Philippians 4:6. She wouldn't just say "think about something nicer" she would quote Philippians 4:8 "whatsoever things are true, honorable, just, pure....think on these things". I am grateful for the way she raised us, for the person she was and for the example she set.

Years later I was able to understand this verse. It is our thinking that creates our world. Since we can't hold two thoughts at once, if we are thinking about things that are pure, honorable and of good report – then we can't be thinking thoughts that make us sad. If you are not happy, look at what you are thinking then simply change your thoughts and change your world.

DONNA NARDUCCI

9:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING PRAYERS

THURSDAY APRIL 2,

PSALMS: A.M. 102 P.M. 142, 143, JER 20:7-11, 1 COR 10:14-17, 11:27-32, JOHN 17

1 COR 10:14-17

Blessings in the sharing of the Blood Of Christ. The bread that we Break is it not the body of Christ. For we all are one body as we partake in the one Bread and Wine.

St. Paul's letter to the early Christians in Corinth speaks to worshipping of idols. In the 21st century that we live in, it could certainly have been to us. We have idols today.-

Idols can be many different things. Love of money, not loving your neighbor, these are just a few.

St. Paul's letter still applies today as in the 1stCentury Corinth. After reading the chapter, I thought that Paul's words certainly made me think. Was I also worshipping idols in my life in 2015?

Blessings and Peace.

For His Sake,

JACKYE THOMPSON JENSEN

*THIS EVENING: MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER AND SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY ADORATION/PRAYER WITH THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT*

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3

PSALMS: A.M. 95, 22 P.M. 40, 54, GEN 22:1-14, 1 PET 1:10-20,

PSALMS: A.M. JN 13:36-38 P.M. JOHN 19:38-42

There is great stillness on Golgotha as it ends. Breathing ceases. The heart stops. The temple curtain is split. The earth has quaked. And it is over – the crushing pain, the horror, the attempt at soul murder, the humiliation, the thirst. All is ended and the spirit is surrendered now to the Father – handed over in hard worked submission. The surrender is complete. “Here is all of me, Father given over to you.”

The stillness to end all stillness that ever were or ever could be steals over the earth catching up all who are there at the foot of the cross. There is nothing but hopelessness for those who watched Jesus take his last labored breath. With this it seems over and it is done. And yet it is not over, and some part of us knows this on a deep level for we have faith that commending a spirit to the Father is not the end of life, but the beginning of True Life. There is more to come. Yes, there is always more to come.

MOTHER BETH+

NOON AND 6 P.M. GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

PSALMS: A.M. 95, 88 PM 27, JOB 19:21-27A, PSALMS: A.M. HEB 4:1-16 P.M. ROMANS 8:1-11

ROMANS 8: 1-11

This passage is talking about how we are not condemned if we believe in Jesus and live in the spirit. We must walk in the spirit and not in the flesh. Following Jesus is the way to live in the spirit and it is the path to eternal life. If we live in the flesh, we will die. The law is in the world of the flesh and what the law cannot do, that is, save us from death, God can.

This chapter in Romans is showing us that God has great mercy. God knows we are weak and that we can fall victim to sin and to the flesh. This is why God sent his only son to die for our sins. Jesus came to us in the likeness of sinful flesh and he lived a life dedicated to showing us the way to eternal life. We just need to have faith and believe in him and we will have eternal life.

SOPHIE RUDMAN

11:00 A.M. RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

*EASTER SUNDAY: 9:30 A.M. EASTER SERVICE FOLLOWED BY
EASTER BRUNCH*