

2nd Week in Lent, Friday February 27

A Prayer by John Donne (1573-1631)

Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun
Which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive those sins through which I run,
And do run still: though still I do deplore?
When Thou has done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin by which I have won
Others to sin? And made my sin their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two: but wallowed in a score?
When Thou has done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
Swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as He shines now and heretofore,
And having done that, Thou hast done,
I fear no more.

In this season of Lent, as we are invited to come into God's presence for cleansing, we can dwell on past sins that hampered our relationship to God and to others. But, as John Donne reminds us, these sins can be brought into the God's healing light, the light of the Father who loves us, who is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin as we repent and turn back to Him. God invites us to come clean before Him. We fear no longer because God's perfect love and forgiveness banish fear. (1 John 1:8-10)