



A Lenten Mosaic - Living In Grace Lent 2020

**Devotion for Friday,
February 28, 2020**

Why I Wake Early
by Mary Oliver

Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who make the morning
and spread it over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips
and the nodding morning glories,
and into the windows of, even, the
miserable and crotchety-
best preacher that ever was,
dear star, that just happens
to be where you are in the universe
to keep us from ever-darkness,
to ease us with warm touching,
to hold us in the great hands of light-
good morning, good morning, good morning.

Watch, now, how I start the day
in happiness, in kindness.

*“You can have the other words-chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I’ll take
grace. I don’t know what it is exactly, but I’ll take it.”*

Mary Oliver, From *Sand Dabs*, Five

Sometimes I need only to stand wherever I am to be blessed.

Mary Oliver, From *It Was Early*

*But I also say this: that light is an invitation to happiness,
and that happiness, when it's done right, is a kind of holiness,
palpable and redemptive.*

Mary Oliver, From *Poppies*

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Prayer

Loving God, in this sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my heart for silence and solitude, so that I may rediscover the grace of a prayer-full life. Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity. Enlarge my heart so that I may give to those in need, and in so doing, rediscover the grace of gratitude and generosity. May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you. Amen.

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