

March 17, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

A LASTING COVENANT

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's First Reading and Gospel

*This is the covenant that I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD.
I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives
how to know the LORD.*

*All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD,
for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.*

JERAMIAH 31:33-34

*"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, there also will my
servant be."*

JOHN 12:26

Reflection

Blessings of God's abiding presence for this Fifth Sunday of Lent. It is also the Feast of St. Patrick, missionary and servant of God's covenant made tangible in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Lenten season rounds the corner toward the last full week. We are headed toward culmination of Lent during Holy Week. Perhaps, like me, you engaged the Lenten journey with the best of intentions that are now waning since, by week five, we've settled into a pattern that seems so ordinary and long. **Don't stop now!** Take a deep breath and renew your desire and self-discipline to deepen your relationship with God.

Today's first reading reminds us that we are in a covenant relationship with God, who does not waver. This covenant is a sacred and mutual promise with God. In making a covenant, God promises a blessing for obedience to the Commandments. Jesus made visible God's great love and abiding presence, making the covenant available to all who seek God. Lent draws us toward life-giving intimacy with the One who is LOVE! Our daily living and being reveal opportunities to encounter God among us and within us.

As we consciously engage God in our lives, we witness to the sacred covenant by the manner of our living and relating. No need to preach on a soap box. Our very being reveals God among us. May our Lenten journey awaken in us the desire for God and open the eyes of our hearts to see God revealed in one another and in all that life brings to us each day. It is our manner of being and acting that reflects the abiding presence of God and draws us deeper into the covenant relationship God desires for us.

Fidelity to covenant living is about receiving the abundance of God's grace, and giving of oneself in service. Jesus promised that we would be with him and he with us as we follow and serve as we have been called. Let us be strengthened by what Jesus said: ***"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, there also will my servant be."*** We are indeed bonded in a covenant relationship that has no end.

I pray that these last two weeks of Lent, desire for God is stirred up with a renewed awareness of God dwelling within and among us. Be encouraged on the journey and alert to the countless ways we are invited to embrace God within and among us.



Pilgrim Journey - Amman, Jordan
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- How is the Lenten journey going for you? It is not too late to re-double your effort.
- How do you experience the covenant with God in your soul and lived reality?

- Stop all the activity! Just be still. Focus and listen to the silence through which God encounters you.

For Prayer

*My Lord and my God,
take from me everything that distances me from you.*

*My Lord and my God,
give me everything that brings me closer to you.*

*My Lord and my God,
detach me from myself to give my all to you.*

Amen.

NICHOLAS OF FLUE

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