

March 28, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

CALLED TO SERVANTHOOD

By Julie Mussché

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,
to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God,
to comfort all who mourn;
To place on those who mourn in Zion
a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.*

ISAIAH 61:1-3a

Reflection

Garden of Gethsemane, Late at Night

Torchlight flickered against the olive trees as he waited while Jesus prayed off at a distance. “The day has been long,” John thought to himself, “starting early with preparation for the Passover meal.” He thought back to the unique instructions to meet the man carrying the pitcher, and then finding the room in the unfamiliar house, and preparing for the celebration. “The Passover meal was like nothing I have ever experienced,” he pondered, and was once again struck with awe in the remembering.

He reflected on the moment when Jesus washed their feet; at first everyone was taken aback, but then felt well cared for and at the same time humbled by the washing. Then, he meandered through the images that emerged. “Jesus startled and saddened all of us with talk of betrayal and his death.” He paused in trepidation. He picked up again, reflecting on the long walk after dinner to this place.

John nodded off and was awakened by Jesus’s voice. “Couldn’t you stay awake and watch with me even one hour?” John found himself falling asleep once again. He felt tiredness to his bones. Once again, he was stirred by the presence of Jesus and again fell promptly asleep. A third time, John was roused, but this time he heard Jesus say, “The time has come,” and he could hear footsteps and see the torchlights approaching. John leapt to his feet and felt very afraid and concerned for his friend.



Photo by Fernando @cferdophotography

A Prayerful Invitation

Don't we all struggle with trying to be attentive to our prayer life and being present to God's encouragements in our lives? How do we remain awake to the Spirit's urgings to walk a righteous path, to be the best we can be as God's representatives on earth? Today, let us pray for foresight, patience, and flexibility in responding to God's call, and for the gift of discernment to help awaken our hearts to God. Tonight, we remember the very foundations of Christianity and hear Jesus's plea to "stay awake." Let us pray.

Companioning Psalm from Today's Readings

*How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.*

PSALM 116:12-13

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