

March 25, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

THE FOLLOWING DAY

By Julie Mussché

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

*"Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
Upon whom I have put my Spirit;
he shall bring forth justice to the nations."*

ISAIAH 42:1

Reflection

Dear Reader,

We enter this Monday of Holy Week on what would have ordinarily been the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Given the gravity of this time and remembrance, the Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year dictate that the celebration be moved to the Monday of the second week of Easter. This

paradoxical juxtaposition offered me the opportunity to break open a reflection on the sacred rite of motherhood with its potential for both enormous joys and deep sorrows. All of this led me to a series of meditations, which begged the question: what was it like, as a follower of Jesus, to have witnessed and been present to the unfolding of this holiest of weeks? My imagination in sitting with scripture and contemplation took me in a number of directions. Over the next week, please allow me to share a series of reflective vignettes with you. Companioning each narration will be an invitation to pray an intention, somewhat like an extended Litany. Each intention will be followed by a portion of the Psalm reading for the day.

Outside of Jerusalem, 4:00 a.m.

Mary sat quietly in the early morning darkness pondering the events of recent days. Her son's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his turning over of the money changers' tables and teaching in the Temple -- so much had transpired. She knew all of this had been foretold and yet she found herself catching her breath with fear at what was to come. An image flashed through the recesses of her heart: Jesus's first steps, Joseph gently coaxing him forward. She missed Joseph in the remembering, yet she felt his presence in the moment. Mary, startled by another memory -- "And a sword will pierce your very soul" -- gently wept. Quieting herself, she recited her morning prayers and made her way to the cooking area to help the other women prepare the morning meal.



Our Lady of Sorrows - Panama
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

A Prayerful Invitation

On this Monday of Holy Week, in remembering the suffering of Jesus and those that followed him, take a moment to pray for parents and families who have lost children, particularly those who lost their lives through acts of violence.

Companioning Psalm Portion from Today's Readings

*The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?*

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