

March 23, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

ONE SHEPHERD FOR US ALL

By Sr. Katherine "Kit" Gray, CSJ

Today's First Reading and Responsorial Psalm

Thus says the Lord GOD:

*I will take the children of Israel from among the nations
to which they have come,
and gather them from all sides to bring them back to their land.*

*I will make them one nation upon the land,
in the mountains of Israel,*

and there shall be one prince for them all.

*Never again shall they be two nations,
and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.*

*My servant David shall be prince over them,
and there shall be one shepherd for them all;
they shall live by my statutes and carefully observe my decrees.*

*They shall live on the land that I gave to my servant Jacob,
the land where their fathers lived;*

*they shall live on it forever,
they, and their children, and their children's children,*

*with my servant David their prince forever.
I will make with them a covenant of peace;
it shall be an everlasting covenant with them,
and I will multiply them, and put my sanctuary among them forever.
My dwelling shall be with them;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Thus the nations shall know that it is I, the LORD,
who make Israel holy,
when my sanctuary shall be set up among them forever.*

EZEKIEL 37:21-28

*Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
proclaim it on distant isles, and say:
He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together,
he guards them as a shepherd his flock.*

*The Lord shall ransom Jacob,
he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror.
Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion,
they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings:
The grain, the wine, and the oil,
the sheep and the oxen.*

*Then the virgins shall make merry and dance,
and young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.*

JEREMIAH 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13

Reflection

As we anticipate the beginning of Holy Week tomorrow, these two Scripture passages say something to me about Jesus' life, suffering, death, and resurrection. In the selection from Ezekiel, God promises to gather all the children of Israel, to form one nation and to make David "one shepherd for them all." Similarly, in the passage from Jeremiah, the one who scattered Israel "now gathers them together" and "guards them as a shepherd his flock." Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, the one who "lays down his life for his sheep" (John 10:11). This "laying down his life" is the source of life, unity, and peace for all. This is what we experience in the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday--Christ willingly laying down his life "for us all and

for our salvation.”

The selection from Jeremiah anticipates the joy of the resurrection: The Lord shall ransom Jacob; then everyone will “make merry and dance”; mourning will be turned into joy, and everyone will be consoled and gladdened after their sorrows. It is a movement from suffering and death to new life.



Herd of sheep
Photo by Süleyman Şahan

For Pondering

- What word or phrase in the Scripture passages resonates with you today?
 - How does the image of the Good Shepherd “fit” with your thoughts about the suffering and death of Jesus?
 - What is your response when you hear Jesus say that he will lay down his life for his sheep?
-

For Prayer

*Jesus Christ, may your death be my life
and in your dying may I learn how to live.*

*May your struggles be my rest,
Your human weakness my courage,*

*Your embarrassment my honor,
Your passion my delight,
Your sadness my joy,
In your humiliation may I be exalted.
In a word, may I find all my blessings in your trials.
Amen.*

ST. PETER FABER, SJ

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

[Support CSD](#)



[Visit Website](#)

[714-744-3172](tel:714-744-3172)

[Join Mailing List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bytheccsd@csjorange.org