

Lenten Reflections

March 5, 2020



*St Francis Receiving the Stigmata – El Greco – Public
Domain*

<https://art.thewalters.org/detail/6457/saint-francis-receiving-the-stigmata-2/>

During Lent, I find it pivotal for us all to take some time and reflect on how far we have come in life, and how merciful and gracious our God has been and continues to be to us.

Furthermore, nine months ago, I officially became an alumnus of Felician University. At the time, I was not certain about the next chapter of my life. In fact, since graduation, life has been extra hectic and overwhelming. Four days after my commencement ceremony, I began my graduate studies at Teachers College, Columbia University. This past September, I officially began my teaching career as a first-year third-grade urban educator in Newark, New Jersey.

Despite it all, every single day, I remind myself of how blessed I am. I also make it my duty to remind myself that I have a mission here on earth. My mission is to use my education and life experiences to transform the lives of my students and the field of education. With that being said, my brothers and sisters, I wish you all a reflective and peaceful Lenten season. May God continue to bless you all today and forever.

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Thursday of the First Week in Lent

Lectionary: 227

Reading 1 [EST C:12, 14-16, 23-25](#)

Queen Esther, seized with mortal anguish,
had recourse to the LORD.

She lay prostrate upon the ground, together with her handmaids,
from morning until evening, and said:

“God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, blessed are you.

Help me, who am alone and have no help but you,
for I am taking my life in my hand.

As a child I used to hear from the books of my forefathers
that you, O LORD, always free those who are pleasing to you.

Now help me, who am alone and have no one but you,
O LORD, my God.

“And now, come to help me, an orphan.

Put in my mouth persuasive words in the presence of the lion
and turn his heart to hatred for our enemy,

so that he and those who are in league with him may perish.

Save us from the hand of our enemies;

turn our mourning into gladness

and our sorrows into wholeness.”

Responsorial Psalm [138:1-2AB, 2CDE-3, 7C-8](#)

R. (3a) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,

for you have heard the words of my mouth;

in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;

I will worship at your holy temple

and give thanks to your name.

R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Because of your kindness and your truth;

for you have made great above all things

your name and your promise.

When I called, you answered me;

you built up strength within me.

R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Your right hand saves me.

The LORD will complete what he has done for me;

your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;

forsake not the work of your hands.

R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

Verse Before The Gospel [PS 51:12A, 14A](#)

A clean heart create for me, O God;
give me back the joy of your salvation.

Gospel [MT 7:7-12](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Ask and it will be given to you;

seek and you will find;

knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds;

and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which one of you would hand his son a stone

when he asked for a loaf of bread,

or a snake when he asked for a fish?

If you then, who are wicked,

know how to give good gifts to your children,

how much more will your heavenly Father give good things

to those who ask him.

“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

This is the law and the prophets.”