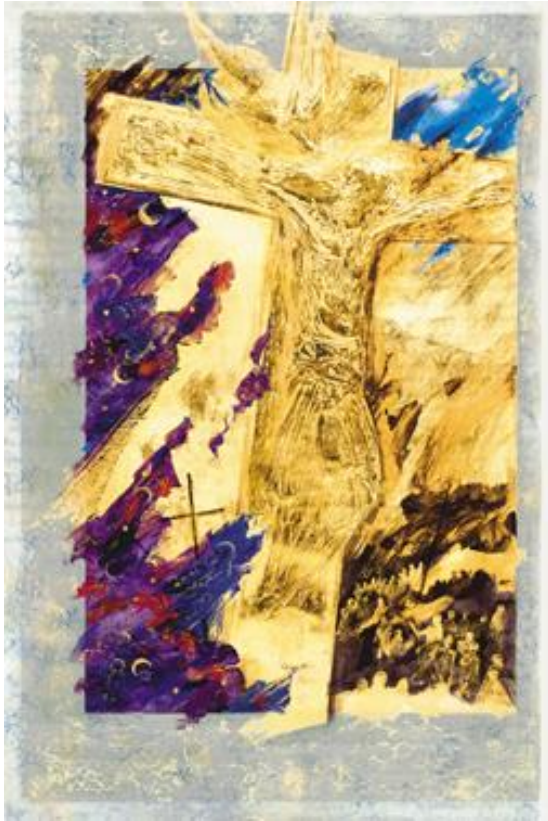


Lenten Reflections

March 7, 2019



Easter represents the life time of Jesus Christ in His fulfillment of His divine purpose assigned by God Almighty on Earth. Every human has been given a mission just as Christ has been given. From my personal understanding upon meditation of the scripture readings, I will explain the events that followed the arrest of our Savior and its significance both spiritually and physically to His children on the Earth.

Change of cloth- the change of cloth after He was arrested signifies the change of lifestyle as children of God. Behold, the old is gone and the new has come. The time to take on our life mission, to serve and not to be served!

Thorn on His head- represent the glory ha has placed on us. Especially for us students, He has given the ability to a retentive memory, knowledge and understanding to excel in our academics. The Thorn is a symbol creative art of thinking and putting things into existence.

The 40-1 lashes- He knew after taking the first beatings that He had to rise and take the more painful ones that tore his flesh because there are more deadly diseases. From headaches to coughs, he took away cancers and HIV AIDS and healed us of all chronic diseases spiritually to manifest physically by sharing in His precious blood.

Spit on Him and mockery- represent the shame He has taken away, and the will to love and be loved and to become one with all people insignificantly of race or color. No more Jews or Gentiles we are made by Him for Him.

Piercing of His hands- that everything and anything we touch shall be blessed.

And indeed, we will enjoy the fruit of our hands.

Nailing of His legs- everywhere we step shall be a blessing. Any dead land we step will sprout flowers and fruit. Our legs have been

sanctified to move anywhere freely and safely return.

Blood and water splashing out- life is abundant to His children. Blood represent our lives here on Earth, the water represents the eternal life we will have when we unite with our Father in heaven.

The message is indeed clear. All of us will have our own Fridays just like Christ. Those days when the universe itself seems shattered and the shades of our world lies littered in pieces and have no thought of putting ourselves together again. As we are in the lent season, let us not forget to fast and pray for strength and grace to run the race and finish up as conquerors.

Mariama Odoi, Biology, Class of 2022

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Lectionary: 220

Reading 1 [Dt 30:15-20](#)

Moses said to the people:

"Today I have set before you

life and prosperity, death and doom.

If you obey the commandments of the LORD, your God,
which I enjoin on you today,

loving him, and walking in his ways,

and keeping his commandments, statutes and decrees,

you will live and grow numerous,

and the LORD, your God,

will bless you in the land you are entering to occupy.

If, however, you turn away your hearts and will not listen,

but are led astray and adore and serve other gods,

I tell you now that you will certainly perish;

you will not have a long life

on the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy.

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you:

I have set before you life and death,

the blessing and the curse.

Choose life, then,

that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God,

heeding his voice, and holding fast to him.

For that will mean life for you,

a long life for you to live on the land that the LORD swore

he would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6](#)

R. (40:5a) **Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Blessed the man who follows not

the counsel of the wicked

Nor walks in the way of sinners,

nor sits in the company of the insolent,

But delights in the law of the LORD
and meditates on his law day and night.

R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

He is like a tree
planted near running water,
That yields its fruit in due season,
and whose leaves never fade.
Whatever he does, prospers.

R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Not so the wicked, not so;
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,
but the way of the wicked vanishes.

R. Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.

Verse Before the Gospel [Mt 4:17](#)

Repent, says the Lord;
the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Gospel [Lk 9:22-25](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected
by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Then he said to all,

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself
and take up his cross daily and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

What profit is there for one to gain the whole world
yet lose or forfeit himself?"