

Lenten Reflections

March 11, 2020



St Francis Receiving the Stigmata – El Greco – Public Domain

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

In reflecting on these passages, I found myself drawn to two different aspects of the readings.

Firstly, the Responsorial Psalm reminds me that God is my refuge. Even when I “hear the whispers of the crowd, that frighten me from every side, as they consult together against me,” I always have my God by my side. The Psalm reminds all of us to trust in the Lord; to put our faith in his kindness, especially when we have reason to doubt it. When the walls are closing in, when we feel helpless and hopeless, that is when we need to rely on our God. The Verse Before the Gospel also reminds us of this when the Lord tells us that “whoever follows me will have the light of life.” The Lord rewards those who put their faith in Him when they need Him the most.

Secondly, the Gospel reading drew my attention with its mention of service. Just as “the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many,” as servants of Christ we are called to serve. Service is a particularly important part of my life, and one of the main reasons I chose Felician University. Service has always been my number one way to connect with God and feel his presence. Campus Ministry is a still-growing part of Felician that I try to be as much a part of as I can. From Midnight Runs, to Mass, to weekend long service trips in Philadelphia, service is my main way of connecting to God.

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Class of 2023

Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent

Lectionary: 232

Reading 1 [Jer 18:18-20](#)

The people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem said,
“Come, let us contrive a plot against Jeremiah.
It will not mean the loss of instruction from the priests,
nor of counsel from the wise, nor of messages from the prophets.
And so, let us destroy him by his own tongue;
let us carefully note his every word.”

Heed me, O LORD,
and listen to what my adversaries say.
Must good be repaid with evil
that they should dig a pit to take my life?
Remember that I stood before you
to speak in their behalf,
to turn away your wrath from them.

Responsorial Psalm [31:5-6, 14, 15-16](#)

R. (17b) Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.

You will free me from the snare they set for me,
for you are my refuge.

Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

R. Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.

I hear the whispers of the crowd, that frighten me from every side,
as they consult together against me, plotting to take my life.

R. Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.

But my trust is in you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my God.”

In your hands is my destiny; rescue me
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors.

R. Save me, O Lord, in your kindness.

Verse Before the Gospel [Jn 8:12](#)

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel [Mt 20:17-28](#)

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem,
he took the Twelve disciples aside by themselves,
and said to them on the way,
“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem,

and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests
and the scribes,
and they will condemn him to death,
and hand him over to the Gentiles
to be mocked and scourged and crucified,
and he will be raised on the third day.”

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Jesus with her sons
and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something.

He said to her, “What do you wish?”

She answered him,

“Command that these two sons of mine sit,
one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom.”

Jesus said in reply,

“You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?”

They said to him, “We can.”

He replied,

“My chalice you will indeed drink,
but to sit at my right and at my left,
this is not mine to give
but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard this,

they became indignant at the two brothers.

But Jesus summoned them and said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and the great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you.

Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.

Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”