

Worship Engagement and Devotion for week of April 10, 2022

READ : [Luke 19:28-40](#) and [Luke 23:13-25](#)

Full to the Brim, An Expansive Lent Week 6: Even the Stones Cry Out



Lent is a six-week journey that takes us to Holy Week and Easter. It is a season for renewing our faith. This year, our Lent worship and devotional material focuses on the theme “Full to the Brim”. The scriptures in Lent overflow with images and narratives that remind us of God’s abundant love, grace, and forgiveness. The invitation is simply that we will receive this gift that is so great it cannot be contained. We are like vessels placed in a running stream. The cool, clear waters of God’s love fill us to the brim and wash over us. Our Lent theme invites us to explore abundant, expansive grace. The Bible is brimming with the gospel of grace and so during Lent we are invited into a full life, a radically different life. We are invited to be who we are, to counter scarcity and injustice, and to spread love lavishly.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the multitude of disciples begins to joyfully shout with praise. The Pharisees try to silence them, but Jesus responds: “I tell you, even if these were silent, the stones would shout out” (Luke 19:40). All of creation cries out with praise—that message rises above the noise, even if the oppressive powers want to silence it. **As we begin our walk through Holy Week, let us ask: What can’t be silenced? What must be said? What things can we not stay quiet about? What is bubbling up that we need to give voice to—faith questions, apologies, issues of justice, truth-telling?** As we go deeper into the story, the truth will soon be set free.



Questions for Reflection:

- The Greek word used for “shout out” is *krázō*—an onomatopoeic term for a raven's piercing cry (“caw”); it means to (figuratively) cry out loudly with an urgent scream or shriek, using “inarticulate shouts that express deep emotion.” **When have you had a *krázō* experience or witnessed someone cry out with deep emotion?**
 - In her commentary, Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt writes: “Expressing our joys, telling our truths, asking the questions we need to ask, repenting and making amends, being our honest and authentic selves—these things are too important to be silent.” **What truths, questions, confessions, and expressions are bubbling up to the surface—in your community and in the world? As you begin to journey through Holy Week, what truths must be said out loud?**
 - In her piece, “Even the Stones Cry Out,” Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman depicts stones echoing the voice of God. In her artist statement, she writes: “Down the sides of the image are the Pharisees or the ‘silencers’ in postures of quieting judgment. My hope was for the silencers to be completely visually enveloped and drowned out by the stones. I left the silencers simplified and unfinished to signify that their attempts at diminishing the truth would ultimately and always be in vain.” **In our world today, what forces, systems, and people are trying to silence the truth of God’s love? When have you played the role of the silencer?**



Adapted from SANCTIFIED ART FULL TO THE BRIM SERMON PLANNING GUIDE

Spiritual Practice: Journey Through Holy Week

Use a journal this week to write or draw your reflections each day of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday - Read Mark 11. Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey where he was greeted joyously.

Holy Monday - Read Matthew 21:12-13. This day is traditionally remembered as the day when Jesus chased the money changers out of the Temple.

Holy Tuesday - This day is remembered as the day that Jesus preached and taught in Jerusalem. Look through the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John reflecting on some of Jesus’ teachings. Read about the greatest commandments in Matthew 22:34-40. Show love to someone today.

Holy Wednesday - Read Matthew 26:14. Also known as Spy Wednesday, the day when Judas Iscariot agrees to betray Jesus.

Maundy Thursday - Read John 13:3-9, Matthew 26:26-28, & John 13:34-35. This day is also called Holy Thursday or Great Thursday. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word for command, derived from Jesus’ mandate to love one another as He has loved us. This day celebrates the Last Supper Jesus had with the disciples. After washing the disciple’s feet, Jesus celebrated the Feast of the Passover, instituting the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Afterwards, while praying in Gethsemane with his disciples, Jesus was arrested.

Good Friday - Read John 19:16-18. On this day we remember the crucifixion when Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Holy Saturday - Read Luke 23:50-56. The day after Jesus died when his body lay buried in the tomb. Because this day was the Sabbath, the women couldn’t go to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body until the next day.

Easter Sunday - Read John 20. This is the third day from the day when Jesus died. The day that Mary Magdalene and Mary discovered that Jesus is alive! Filled with joy, they ran to tell others. We are commissioned to do the same. Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!