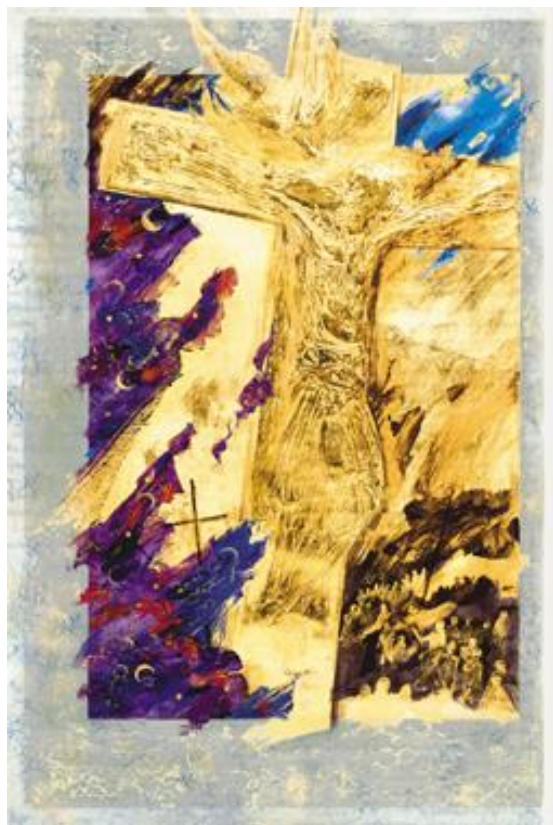


Lenten Reflections

March 18, 2019



When I was a Brownie, my troop was given a guided tour of our local municipal building. The tour was led by one of the town's policemen – my father. We met the mayor, saw the municipal court and visited the fire department. The last leg of the tour took us through the workings of the police department. There we saw the detectives' office and the radio "command center." The final room on the tour was the town's two-cell jail-room. In this room, he offered the troop an opportunity to "feel like a criminal." He said he would lock us inside one of the cells and assured us that he would, after a moment or two of captivity, release us.

My troop leader and my fellow brownies went into the cell. I did not. I was afraid of the cell. The idea of going inside was petrifying. From my "safe" vantage point, I watched the rest of the troop willingly enter the cage. I heard the door slam shut. I saw them huddled together, looking at us from the other side of the bars.

After what seemed an endless 30 seconds, I witnessed my father unlock the cell door and provide clemency. He released the transgressors. Oh, the relief that they must have felt when they were set free from their confinement. Oh, how freeing mercy can be.

Let us use this time of Lent to reflect the metrics by which we judge others, as this will be the metric by which we are judged. We should not be afraid to ask for forgiveness from those we have wronged. We should emulate our merciful Father when we are asked to forgive.

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Monday of the Second Week in Lent
Lectionary: 230

Reading 1 [Dn 9:4b-10](#)

"Lord, great and awesome God,
you who keep your merciful covenant toward those who love you
and observe your commandments!
We have sinned, been wicked and done evil;
we have rebelled and departed from your commandments and your laws.
We have not obeyed your servants the prophets,
who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes,
our fathers, and all the people of the land.
Justice, O Lord, is on your side;
we are shamefaced even to this day:
we, the men of Judah, the residents of Jerusalem,
and all Israel, near and far,
in all the countries to which you have scattered them
because of their treachery toward you.
O LORD, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes, and our fathers,
for having sinned against you.
But yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness!
Yet we rebelled against you
and paid no heed to your command, O LORD, our God,
to live by the law you gave us through your servants the prophets."

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13](#)

R. (see 103:10a) **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

Remember not against us the iniquities of the past;
may your compassion quickly come to us,
for we are brought very low.

R. **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

Help us, O God our savior,
because of the glory of your name;
Deliver us and pardon our sins
for your name's sake.

R. **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

Let the prisoners' sighing come before you;
with your great power free those doomed to death.
Then we, your people and the sheep of your pasture,
will give thanks to you forever;
through all generations we will declare your praise.

R. **Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins.**

Verse Before the Gospel See [Jn 6:63c, 68c](#)

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

Gospel [Lk 6:36-38](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Stop judging and you will not be judged.

Stop condemning and you will not be condemned.

Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give and gifts will be given to you;

a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing,
will be poured into your lap.

For the measure with which you measure
will in return be measured out to you."