



Holy Week Meditation Tuesday, April 7, 2020

“Save us, Lord, but not us alone : redeem your whole creation.”

(From Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals)

Lectionary for Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Psalms 71:1-14

Mark 11:27-33; John 12:20-36

Tuesday of Holy Week seems to fall in a bit of a lull - the triumphant entry of Palm Sunday is fading, and Jesus is repeatedly trying to make the people understand what is to come later this very week. In Mark, there are chief priests, scribes, and elders questioning his authority. In John, the gathered crowd questions his death and ascension into heaven, because it doesn't line up with what they understand the role of 'Messiah' to be. Over and over Jesus tries to make them understand; he asks questions, he offers parables, and a booming voice even reverberates down from heaven. And yet, they still don't seem to fully get it.

These passages make me wonder how often I have been totally unaware of something divine happening right in front of me. How Jesus has used me, how the spirit has offered me guidance in times of confusion, and how blatantly clear the gospel has been right in front of me when I felt darkness. At least from the Bible I know that I am not alone in this, that even those who had the *person of Jesus speaking to them were confused and unaware at times!*

But with this wondering perhaps I can find ways to deepen my awareness, to quiet my spirit and listen for the ways that Jesus is working in my life. To turn to the Bible in my confusion and seek answers, instead of walking around in the dark. At the end of the passage in John, Jesus says "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." [John 12:35-36 NRSV]

Sure, this message was much more time-sensitive when Jesus said it, as his death was drawing near, but I find myself thinking of how we need to take advantage of our time with the gift of light. Life is a gift, our time together in community is a gift, even our time stuck in our houses could be seen as a gift, a time to center and rest and truly listen for the divine. May we seek the light this week, even as it goes dim on Friday, knowing that on Sunday we will be overcome with its brightness, a reminder of the transformational love of Jesus.

Lord, hear our prayer:

God of light and love,

We are eternally thankful for the way you continue to show up despite our fear and our disbelief.

Help us to hear your voice through the chaos, to find your light when all around us is darkness.

Remind us not to take our time for granted, or to question your will for us and our lives.

May we be children of the light, your light, for all the days of our lives.

Amen.