

Lent Meditation: Week 5

Let the Living Water Lead Us

Invocation

God of imagination, you show yourself to us in so many ways. Today we look at the story of Lazarus and the idea of Living Water is expressed in Jesus' tears. In this story we can imagine the depth of emotion you felt. Be close to us as we feel the love of friends and your divine love intertwined.

Confession

You know us Lord. When we hear you say "Love God and Love Neighbor" we think about those as mutually exclusive commands. Forgive us for not understanding that these are two points of the same line. Teach us that our love of you and our love of each other (and our love of creation) are all like swimming in the flow of the Living Water. Give us strength and joy in the swimming.

Amen

John 11:32-44 (NRSV)

Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."



Prayer

Leader: Creator God, we give you thanks for friends and for the gift of relationships. Help us to see our relationship with all of creation and strengthen our love and concern for it.

All: Let the Living Water lead us.

Leader: Jesus, when we see that you wept for your friends, we know that you totally understand all our deepest emotions. We thank you for your tears and for showing us how our relationship with God and neighbor is connected.

All: Let the Living Water lead us.

Leader: Spirit of God, flow around us and show us what the Living Water is all about. Stir up in us the joy of loving You and all our neighbors. Encourage us to float in the river of your love and let it take us where you will.

All: Let the Living Water lead us. Amen



Mercy, The Death of Lazarus

A time of silence

You are invited into a time of reflection and a spiritual practice called Ignatian Contemplation. It invites us to use our imaginations to put ourselves into the story. Read the lesson to yourself. Then retell the story using "I sentences". For example: "Emotions were so strong. I could feel my relationships with my friends and also with the Father." (Jesus' point of view) or "I didn't know what to think (or hope) when Jesus approached the tomb." (Mary's point of view). Add sights, smells, colors, and feelings to your story. You might want to write down your story, or tell it to another person. Then add color to the mural. Today, you might like to use whatever colors mean "life" and "living water" to you.

A blessing

May Creator God bless us with clean water.

May Jesus the Christ bless us with living water.

May the Spirit of God bless us as we follow where the water leads us. Amen

Lent 2017 Week 5

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