



WE WILL  
BE CHANGED

*Reflections for the*

SEASON OF  
LENT 2018

**EDGEWOOD COLLEGE**

Reflections available during Lent at [edgewood.edu/reflections](http://edgewood.edu/reflections)

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## The Season of Lent

Lent is the forty-day preparatory period before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Lent begins this year on February 14 and culminates on Easter Sunday, April 1. In the Christian tradition, the season of Lent is a time of soul searching and repentance—a time for reflection while taking stock of one’s life in preparation for the Easter celebration of the risen Christ.

This booklet is a collection of Lenten Reflections from contributors throughout the Edgewood College community. Generally we have included only a portion of the biblical text due to space constraints. We hope these reflections, based on readings in the Common Christian Lectionary, serve as a guide and a point of inspiration for you during this year’s observance of Lent.

*Dominican Life and Mission  
Edgewood College*

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## **Ash Wednesday, February 14**

Joel 2:12-18. Even now, says God, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to your God. For gracious and merciful is God, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.

In this passage we are reminded of the importance of turning to God in challenging times, and being open to receiving God's mercy. The Book of Joel is the story of dark and challenging times. One that calls people to give sacrifice and ask for forgiveness, but it is also a reminder that renewal is possible. As Lent begins, I am reminded that this can be a time of reflection and renewal; a time to open our hearts completely to the possibility of change. It can be a time to reconcile what we believe with our actions, seek forgiveness for our wrongs, and turn over a new leaf. In doing so, we open ourselves to receive mercy and love, and move into the season with full hearts to give the same to others.

*Kelly Grorud,  
Associate Academic Dean for Teaching and Learning*

## **Thursday, February 15**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving your God, heeding God's voice, and holding fast to God.

It would be easy to interpret this passage as a simple lesson in obedience: follow the rules or suffer the consequences. However, to do so would be an injustice to the significance of that moment. This is one of Moses' last sermons to his people. He is about to pass the reigns of leadership to his pupil, Joshua, and his people are about to move forward into the unknown without his guidance and protection. Like a parent seeing a child leave home, Moses feels the anxiety of wanting great things for his people and knowing he cannot do it for them. They can only get there on their own. This passage reminds us that a well-lived life is the responsibility of the individual. No one can get us there. We can only get there on our own.

*J Park, Systems and Network Administrator;  
Edgewood College B.S., 2010*

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## **Friday, February 16**

Isaiah 58:1-9a. This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly...Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.

Through the act of fasting, of abstaining from food or from activities that we enjoy as part of Lent, it is not just the action that is important, but the reflection on it. It can be an important part of our search for truth. In fasting or abstaining from activities we enjoy, we must consider that we are fortunate in having a choice to abstain because we are privileged with what we have during the rest of the year. Lent calls on us to consider how very fortunate we are and how we are called upon to serve those who have less.

This passage in particular reminds us that gratitude and service are at the heart of so many spiritual traditions and that service is something that we are all called to do, regardless of our individual doctrines. Service is embodied in our Dominican values of community, partnership, compassion and justice.

*Anjali Pattanayak,  
Assistant Director, Student Inclusion and Involvement*

## **Saturday, February 17**

Isaiah 58:9b-14. If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday; Then God will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land.

As I read this passage, what speaks to me is God's call to care for one another. We live in a time when society's focus on monetary wealth is at an unprecedented high. Western society, in particular, often takes the measure of a person by what they possess or what they've accumulated. We've lost sight of where true wealth stems from – service to God and service to our earthly family. During this season of Lent when we remember Jesus' time in the desert, where he was repeatedly tempted and tested, it's good to reflect on our own lives. To see where we are being tested and how we are responding. I find these small moments of introspection help me to steer my own ship back on course and remember that only through love can I find God's true purpose for me.

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*Jeanne Benink, Program Coordinator for Science Outreach*

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## **First Sunday in Lent, February 18**

Mark 1:12-15. The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

In this passage, Jesus sounds ostracized and alone, but that the exile was at the hand of the Spirit. It was not by some persecuting force, not by Satan, not by his own hand, but by the Spirit. This time of isolation is for a purpose, put in Jesus' path by his own loving Father. And even when he was seemingly alone, Jesus is not alone. As it is written, he was among the wild beasts and the angels ministered to him. So too are we ministered by angels; even when we think that we are alone, there are forces that keep with us. Our felt "exile" is temporary. We have the forces of nature, we have the angels, we have God's support. We are only temporarily waiting to be called to our own version of Galilee, our own time of fulfillment.

*Linda Westphal, Enterprise Application  
Developer and Database Administrator;  
Edgewood College M.B.A., 2009, B.S., 2013*

## **Monday, February 19**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18. God said to Moses, You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to reprove them, do not incur sin because of them. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your neighbors. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am your God.

This is a powerful scripture for me, as I enter into this Lenten Season. I think many of us intend to live with these very powerful Words as our guide. But, intentions do not always bring action. In the current state of our Nation and World, we need these Words more than ever. "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF", this means living in a world with inclusion, forgiveness and compassion. Lent is a time to reflect on how to open our hearts and look beyond bias and judgment. We are one in God and we must live each day with love for our neighbors.

*Lisa Carey, Director Advanced Certification Elementary ACE,  
School of Education*

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## **Tuesday, February 20**

Isaiah 55:10-11. Thus says your God: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

If our words, our actions, our whole beings carry reverence for all Life, we have the power to bring light to other lives. In the Greek translation of the Bible, the ‘Word of God’ spells *LOGOS*, and during the early centuries of the church, *LOGOS* was also a direct reference to Jesus. Such interpretation speaks again of God’s ultimate sacrifice that comes from boundless love. Just look at all the life that in early spring will emerge from the winter ground. A little, defenseless, lonely seed, buried in the dead, frozen soil all winter, blooms into a beautiful flower. Science can explain every stage of this miraculous process, but only faith can assure us of the power behind it. And when in moments of hardship, you doubt God’s love and feel alone and forgotten, be patient, because your spring is coming.

*Sergei Pavlov, Assistant Professor, Director of Choirs*

## **Wednesday, February 21**

Jonah 3:1-10. God may relent and forgive, and withhold God’s blazing wrath, so that we shall not perish.

“God may relent and forgive” and God did. Even with God’s choice to forgive and carry on, our own egos continue to debilitate us and our ability to forgive. After all, how do we forgive those not looking for forgiveness? What if the people of Ninevah had not changed their ways? Would God still have forgiven them? How do we forgive the unforgivable? How do we forgive unthinkable acts of violence, abuse and hatred in today’s world? Forgiveness can change my behavior, my choices, my attitude. I am struck with the wisdom that comes from forgiveness. Perhaps I can forgive when I recognize that the act of forgiveness is not only for the person who has harmed me, but also for myself. When I forgive I let go of anger, of the “blazing wrath” that can toxify my surroundings.

*Karen Ball, Director of Academic Success;  
Edgewood College B.S., 2005*

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## **Thursday, February 22**

Psalm 23:1-3a, 4-6. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for You are at my side with Your rod and Your staff that give me courage.

At times, the darkness of winter can weigh heavily on my ability to encounter each day with a positive outlook. There always seems to be an endless to-do list which just never seems to get finished. There are countless commitments that require a schedule to be stretched to its limits. At times, small disagreements between colleagues or friends snowballs to the point where reconciliation appears impossible.

Life's challenges continue to present themselves each day and every day. It can be too much to handle.

However, we are reminded in today's psalm that we are not meant to tackle these challenges alone. God has promised to walk through the darkest valleys with us; to share God's love with us. We may experience that love through silent prayer, a conversation with a good friend or through the kindness of a stranger but regardless God is always there. God's love is forever present to bring warmth and light to the darkest days of winter.

*Linda Wilder, Executive Assistant, Academic Dean's Office;  
Edgewood College B.S., 2011, M.A., 2015*

## **Friday, February 23**

Ezekiel 18:21-28. Do I indeed derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked? says God. Do I not rather rejoice when they turn from their evil way that they may live?

In the end, can we each genuinely be measured by only our own good or evil deeds? Especially in the world today, which is undoubtedly unfair, and where many individuals seem to have two sides. We need to extend forgiveness for those who need it the most, in the hopes that they can shift their behavior before it's too late. We need to show compassion to those who have wavered between good and bad, with forgiveness of sins, and forgiveness of actions, which either good or bad individuals have felt compelled to do during times of desperation or despair. As this passage says, and as we teach our children, we are expected to do right. In turn, it is expected that others forgive our sins as we express our desire to correct our character. If we consider our wrongdoings, and decide to do what is right, we can surely live just and compassionate lives.

*Jamie Reetz, Associate Registrar;  
Edgewood College B.S., 2010*



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## **Saturday, February 24**

Matthew 5:43-48. Jesus said to his disciples: "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

This is the focal point for deeper understanding in this piece of text. As a long-term learner, this phrase is the equivalent of the concept of respect. We as students, alumni, faculty, and staff come across people every day. These people have ideas and viewpoints that oppose our own. As learners, we should not avoid those people for they may bring up concepts that we may not have thought of before. I believe that true learning takes place when conversations take place with people from different viewpoints. For this to happen, we as learners have to respect each other enough to listen to what each party has to say.

*Kareen Massie, Junior, Computer and Information Sciences*

## **Second Sunday in Lent, February 25**

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18. God called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied.

What an amazing thing to be called by God, right? Or is it? Abraham had no way of knowing what was to follow! I believe that this passage is less about God putting Abraham (or any of us) to the test and more about the nature of being called and what it means to faithfully respond.

Here we have an abiding commitment to our Cor questions: Who am I, what are the needs and opportunities of the world, and what's my role in responding to that — in building a just and compassionate world. These are, essentially, vocation questions or "calling" questions.

So often we want clarity on our purpose: what are we meant to do, who are we meant to be? Many of us spend a lifetime trying to live into the answers. Wouldn't it be so much easier to be called and be provided with direction?

I believe we are called throughout our lives, and that God's voice is present in the people and experiences of our lives. Here's the thing: Are we listening? Are we paying attention? Will we respond faithfully?

*Dean Pribbenow,  
Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean*

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## **Monday, February 26**

Luke 6:36-38. 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.

A community is a fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals. If we forgive others, and try not to judge or condemn, we are being a role model to our community. Wouldn't a compassionate ear be far better than a negative or judgmental thought or comment? This is a simple but powerful gift we all can share.

Let's surround our Edgewood community with positive feelings, beliefs and actions!

*Darcy Kelly, Women's Golf Coach*

## **Tuesday, February 27**

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20. Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says our God.

Isaiah's empowering words call for action. In times of injustice, we are called to right the wrong, listen to each other, and support one another. Although many of us may feel strong and able to stand with conviction when challenged, when put to the test, we may waiver and feel self-doubt. This scripture gives us the permission to do good even though we have sinned. Our past mistakes do not determine how we live in the present or the future. We are encouraged to seek out opportunities of reconciliation through loving each other. With all of our faults, we can still seize the opportunities to set things right. This is the gift of God: to be forgiven and walk in God's light alongside each other.

*Jenna Alsteen,  
Director of Graduate Admissions and Operations*

## **Wednesday, February 28**

Jeremiah 18:18-20. Heed me, O God, 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.

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As scholars, teachers, and leaders we champion many causes. As such, we face scrutiny from those who oppose our well-intended works. But, we should remain steadfast in our missions rooted in the pursuit of socially-just society. Have faith that the work we do upholding our values of compassion, justice, community, partnership, and truth are consistent with the Will of God. It is God who will see this work through- we are mere vessels. As messages of hate may at times seem to overpower messages of love and compassion, we each have a choice to: 1) continue the quest for justice and the disruption of hate, or 2) withdraw our good efforts becoming complicit in the wrongs of society that are led by hate.

*Ernise Williams, Assistant Professor, Nursing,  
Co-Director, Center for Multicultural Education*

### **Thursday, March 1**

**Jeremiah 17:5-10. I, your God, alone probe the mind and test the Heart.**

This statement tells me that Edgewood College and our five Values of TRUTH, COMPASSION, JUSTICE, PARTNERSHIP and COMMUNITY define the essence of a spiritual life. “Veritas” is the foundation of the Dominican existence. It requires us all to participate in life in such a way that brings a positive, Godly review at life’s end. Dominic defined how to give rather than always receive and illustrates our Compassion value.

Jeremiah 17 illustrates for us that virtues which reflect personal gain, lacking a compassionate heart will not gain favor with our Lord. As stated, “More tortuous than all else is the human heart” and only God will be able to see within and make judgment according to merit and deeds.

So it’s incumbent upon us all to find ways to live a Truthful, Compassionate and Just life. We all are required to partner within our community and strive to make each day one that will make God rejoice.

*Gary Oftedahl, Edgewood College Golf Coach*

### **Friday, March 2**

**Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a. Jacob loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he had made him a long tunic. When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of all his sons, they hated him so much that they would not even greet him.**

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As I read this scripture, it occurred to me that family dynamics can be very frustrating, but also very rewarding. Whether it is our own family, extended family or the Edgewood family, families experience trying times. Being the one family member to be a little different, like Joseph and his tunic, can be challenging at times. We try to be receptive to all, but sometimes get caught up in not wanting to be different. We need to be compassionate about the differences that we all have. Joseph's brothers looked at him as the "favorite" of their father, and let this lead to wanting to kill him. At Edgewood we enjoy the inclusion of all, even how different we all are; it is a good family environment to work in each day.

*Tim Fargo, Project Manager,  
Facilities Operations*

### **Saturday, March 3**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, "Father, give me a share of your estate that should come to me." So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongs and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance.**

Like the younger son, at some point in our lives, I believe each of us travels to a distant country where we become lost and feel hopeless; however, how and when we choose to leave the distant place and go back home is up to us. I believe it is important that we remember that even at our lowest points in life, we have the opportunity to acknowledge and accept our failures and head back home. Although heading back means accepting our faults and facing people we have hurt, those who truly love us will be there to forgive us and love us through our mistakes, like the father was for the younger son. As humans, we are destined to get lost in our journey through life and travel to unknown places, but we must trust that when we are able to find ourselves and continue on our journey once more, those we love will still be there to forgive our mistakes and love us unconditionally.

*Megan Schumacher, Junior, Childhood Education,  
Regular and Special Education*

### **Third Sunday in Lent, March 4**

**Exodus 20:1-17. I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me..For I, your God, am a jealous God.**

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What most stuck out to me in the reading of the Ten Commandments is God's proclamation as a jealous God in the second commandment against idolatry. Jealousy personifies God and maybe not in a way with which we are comfortable. However, I think God's jealousy speaks to his identity as our Holy Father. Any earthly father would be jealous if his child put another father figure before him. Ultimately, God is a jealous God because of his immense fatherly love for us, his children. A love that guides not only his commandment to not have other gods than him, but also the other nine. A love that wants the best for us, and knows that these commandments are for our own good. A love that forgives us, as any father would and does, when we mess up.

*Maureen Zach, Admissions Counselor*

### **Monday, March 5**

2 Kings 5:1-15ab. Now the Arameans had captured in a raid on the land of Israel a little girl, who became the servant of Naaman's wife. "If only my master would present himself to the prophet in Samaria," she said to her mistress, "he would cure him of his leprosy."

There are two encounters that Naaman has which lead to his physical healing from leprosy. The first encounter is with a young Israeli slave girl who tells Naaman to present himself to the prophet in Samaria in order to be cured. The second encounter is with a group of servants who convince him to plunge into the Jordan's waters in order to be cleansed and healed. In both encounters it is the servant, not a king or prophet, who convinces Naaman of the truth.

One of the great disservices in our society today is that by choice we have isolated ourselves from those who are different from us. The privilege of working at Edgewood then, is that we are a part of a diverse and vibrant community of students, faculty, and staff. Each semester provides us with a new opportunity to engage in this lifelong pursuit of truth.

*Michael Krueger,  
Community Service Leadership Coordinator*

### **Tuesday, March 6**

Matthew 18: 21-35. Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often must I forgive them? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."

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The Greek word “forgiveness” translates to “to let go.” Jesus says “Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is in debt to us.” (Luke 11:14) In today’s scripture, Jesus is equating forgiveness with canceling debt. We forgive others when we let go of resentment and give up any claim to be compensated for the hurt or loss we have suffered. The master forgave his servant for his large debt. The servant was very grateful to the master. However, the servant turned around and did not forgive another servant who owed him a much smaller amount. Why could the first servant not return the compassion that the master bestowed onto him?

Forgiveness can be very hard. It can make us question ourselves and our values. However, doesn’t it feel better to forgive than to feel angry or resentful?

*Kim Zahler, Facilities Operations Specialist,  
Facilities Operations*

### **Wednesday, March 7**

**Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9.** For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as our God is to us whenever we call upon God?...However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children’s children.

This passage resonates with me and our work here at Edgewood College, in three key areas of the passage. First, Moses notes the greatness of the nation, emphasizing the intelligence and wisdom of the people. As applied to today, I use this as a tool to remind myself that even when faced with an overwhelming sense that intelligence and wisdom may not always be celebrated in decision making or leadership, I have hope in knowing that through our work and study at Edgewood, we seek to be these people of wisdom and knowledge for the future. Second, Moses warns that we must not forget the things we have seen. Today, we must remember our past mistakes and that of our nation, leaders, and communities, and apply those lessons learned as we move forward in our work. To forget the realities of the past does a disservice to our hope and work towards the future. Finally, Moses reminds us of our obligation to teach our children and children’s children. As educators and learners, we make a commitment to share our knowledge, to teach our children, and to embrace *their* ideas of what our world can be. This is a hope I commit myself to.

*Heather Harbach, Interim Dean of Students;  
Edgewood College Ed.D., 2017*

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## **Thursday, March 8**

Jeremiah 7:23-28. Thus says our God: This is what I commanded my people: Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper...But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their evil hearts and turned their backs, not their faces, to me.

Jeremiah is a prophet who always spoke with emotion and conviction. He recounts God's generous promises to the people: Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper.

But the people didn't pay any attention to God and not to Jeremiah, either: The word itself is banished from their speech.

What do Jeremiah's words and the people's response say to us? They say to me that now during Lent 2018, I want to ask myself if there are any parts of my life--attitudes, thoughts, actions--that seem to reject God's offer to be my God.

I want to accept God's offer. I want to wipe the slate clean of any of my attitudes or actions that prevent this.

Luckily, we have nearly three weeks of Lent left to work on accepting God's presence and love more deeply in our lives!

*Ann McCullough, O.P.,  
Board of Trustees*

## **Friday, March 9**

Hosea 14: 2-10. I will be like the dew for Israel: he shall blossom like the lily; He shall strike root like the Lebanon cedar, and put forth his shoots. His splendor shall be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the Lebanon cedar.

This passage speaks to the blessings that come when we return to what really matters, to what guides and nourishes us, especially after we've been away from (or have turned away from) those things for a time. When we return to what truly sustains us, we are renewed and replenished.

*When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,*

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*I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

~ Wendell Berry

*Lisa Linfield,  
Online Instructional Technology and Course Design Manager*

### **Saturday, March 10**

**Luke 18:9-14.** Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

Our Pharisee here has mastered the art of the humblebrag. At Temple, he speaks a “prayer to himself.” In today’s parlance, he tweets his own horn. He rather gratingly points out how much better he is than others. Here’s where this paradoxical parable springs its first trap: it’s tempting to react, “Oh Lord I thank thee, I am not that despicable Pharisee.” Gotcha! Who’s self-righteous now?

Tax collectors back then were traitors whose stock in trade was cheating, lying, and thuggery. At Temple our tax collector knows that he hasn’t a prayer, so he simply and wholeheartedly throws himself on God’s mercy. And, he receives it -- winner, winner, chicken sinner! Another gotcha. Did we expect Jesus to smite him, because we self-righteously believe he’s a bad person?

The parable just goes to show you never know. God only knows. Something to keep in mind during these challenging sociopolitical times.

*Jane McCarthy, Administrative Assistant, School of Business*

### **Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 11**

**2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23.** In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting God’s temple which had been



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consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the God of their ancestors send messengers to them, for God had compassion on the people and God's dwelling place.

This passage tells of the isolation and loss experienced by people who mocked God's messengers and refused to listen to the messages sent to them. It highlights the importance of listening with an open mind to both the message and the messenger, and then reflecting upon what is said. What messages are we receiving that we do not hear? Listening for truth keeps us connected to our community and to our humanity. At times, revelations are unexpected or come from a most unlikely source. Yet change and growth are hindered when we refuse to acknowledge the person or listen to them. To practice listening in an open manner to the messages sent to us, and then reflecting on the truth inherent in this message is a spiritual endeavor that allows us to be our best selves.

*Brenda del Moral, Associate Professor,  
Biological Sciences*

## **Monday, March 12**

**Isaiah 65:17-21. Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy...the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.**

As a child, my limited understanding of the season of Lent was as a time for sacrifice and sadness at the death of Jesus, ending with chocolate bunnies, a fancy dress, and a very lengthy Mass. Of course, eventually I began to see the true message of the season as hope and renewal. It is that idea of optimism that I take away from this passage...the hope that current problems will someday seem very foreign to us.

I believe that we are called to rejoice not only in what God has created, but also in the potential we have to make a better world. We still struggle against violence, disease, poverty, and injustice...perhaps we always will. But we should not give up the struggle, excusing our inaction on the premise that these things are inevitable elements of the human condition. God has given us the tools to improve our circumstances and those of our sisters and brothers: our minds, our hearts, our natural resources, each other. I think we can leave "new

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heavens" up to God, but it is up to us to create this "new earth." What are we waiting for?

*Louise Stracener, Associate Professor,  
Chemistry, Geoscience and Physics*

### **Tuesday, March 13**

**Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12.** Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live, and there shall be abundant fish, for wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh. Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine.

Our world today is wracked by fears, justified fears of moral collapse, societal upheaval, cataclysmic wars, and even the death of our Earth, on which we so completely depend. How do we respond to these nightmare situations?

The prophet Ezekiel showed us a similar vision where destruction and annihilation abound. But Ezekiel also shows us a possible end to these nightmares.

In Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, we see a happy ending for our own dark times. A river of fresh water from the temple of God brings life: "Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live... fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail."

But how do we redeem our current situation? Lent reminds us we need to accept our responsibility and repent if we want to enable that restorative, life-giving river in our own times.

*Susan Rustick, Associate Professor,  
English Department and Environmental Studies*

### **Wednesday, March 14**

**Isaiah 49:8-15.** Thus says our God: In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you. Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, Break forth into song, you mountains. For God comforts people and shows mercy to the afflicted. But Zion said, "God has forsaken me; my God has forgotten me." Can

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a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?  
Even should she forget, I will never forget you!

Reflecting on this portion of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, I discovered something that I had never, in all my years of listening to and studying Scripture, learned before! I also learned something that I have known forever, perhaps from my days in my Mother's Womb.

Never knew before? The Texts collected into the Book of Isaiah were written over a period of at least 150 years to at least two, maybe three different Communities in very different geographical locations. The verses we hear today were written for the Israelite Community in captivity. They were East of, and remembering, their beloved City Jerusalem. They were "exiled and weeping" near Babylon, in a strange land and among strangers.

Known forever? God is Love. And whenever I love and let myself be loved by others, all will be well.

Let us continue our Lent 2018 Journeys together, lovingly.

*Sarah Naughton, O.P., College Archivist*

### **Thursday, March 15**

Exodus 32:7-14. God said to Moses, "I see how stiff-necked this people is. Let me alone, then, that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them. Then I will make of you a great nation." But Moses implored God, saying, "Why, O God, should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with such great power and with so strong a hand?"

Like many humans, God struggles with diversity. In Exodus 32:7-14, God is ready to destroy those God helped escape from Egypt due to their practice of an Egyptian ritual honoring Osiris. The Midrash suggests that this ceremony was conducted by converts whose presence is indicated by Exodus' reference to a "mixed multitude" who escaped Egypt.

Moses' response is powerful: He convinces God that this failure of orthodoxy is not worth breaking the Abrahamic covenant and even speaks of the offending persons as Abraham's descendants. Despite God's fury, we can see the syncretic power and promise of the ceremony that God could not. When distinct cultures come together,

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there are possibilities for the creation of new practices of community, love, and hope. These possibilities are often snuffed out by violent assimilation. I wonder what my Jewish heritage would look like if God had honored the creative possibilities that arose from mixing.

*Geoffrey A. Adelsberg, Assistant Professor of Philosophy*

### **Friday, March 16**

Wisdom 2: 1a, 12-22. With revilement and torture let us put him to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience." ...but they erred; for their wickedness blinded them, and they knew not the hidden counsels of God.

I feel this passage illustrates how insidious the wicked can be in oppressing the just and righteous. In its effort to succeed, wickedness will test your patience a seemingly infinite amount. To defeat it, we must be steadfast in our defense. I also believe this passage warns of self-righteousness. Consider the possibility that you may be the one influenced and blinded by the wicked. We must not be so stubborn in our beliefs that we discount the possibility that we could be wrong. Righteousness will only come to all of us, by our willingness to listen to others with an open mind. Balancing these two concepts (a need to defend righteousness while being open to seemingly wicked ideas) is indeed difficult to achieve. Yet I believe we can only advance as a society by finding that balance.

*Jonathan Bloy, Head of Digital Initiatives,  
Oscar Rennebohm Library*

### **Saturday, March 17**

Psalms 7:2-3, 9bc-12. O my God, in you I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and rescue me, lest I become like the lion's prey, to be torn to pieces, with no one to rescue me. Do me justice, O God, because I am just, and because of the innocence that is mine.

This Psalm is full of the words, I, me, my, mine.

My God  
Save Me  
I am just  
Innocence that is mine

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This person is full of fear of the enemies who seem to have greatly used words of slander loudly and often. Yet this one has great faith in the all-knowing- God. This person calls God a shield that can protect one with faith from all attacks, no matter what or who they be. Do you look at your relationship with your God this strong and loving? Are we able to be honest, faithful and constant in our use of the word MY GOD? Do you let God be your shield so you can walk, run, jump, laugh, cry, respond with love to others because you feel safe with Jesus? That is what the gift of Faith is all about. Rejoice in God's relationship with you. It is full of love and specialness.

*Ellie Hoffmann, O.P.;*  
*Edgewood College B.S., 1966*

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 18**

Jeremiah 31:31-34. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says our God, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

What is so striking to me about this passage is God's message of equality. In today's world, we hear numerous stories of inequality that result in divides between people. However, God does not want us to dwell on our differences. Instead, God strives to show that each of us is important and valid, promising that no matter one's background, God will be shown to all so that we might all feel God's love. And it is through God's love that we are able to better ourselves so that we may become the best version of ourselves; a version of our self where we know no divides. These better versions of ourselves allow us to truly live out God's word. By forgiving our sins and looking past the wrong we do, God calls us to look towards God as a source for support. God alone dissolves all stereotypes; however, God looks to us to carry out God's will for a just world. All we need to ask ourselves is: will we answer the call?

*Maddie Weitz, Junior, Nursing*

### **Monday, March 19 -- Feast of St. Joseph**

Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a. This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of God appeared to

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him in a dream and said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home..." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel had commanded him.

In this passage, we see a glimpse of Joseph's character as a person of reflection, discernment and courage. His dilemma? How could he be true to his beliefs and at the same time protect Mary, given the questionable circumstances of her pregnancy. Yet, when he wakes from his dream with a new awareness, he acts with courage in keeping his commitment to Mary. This passage invites us to consider how we listen to the Spirit in the challenging circumstances of our lives. Do we take time to prayerfully reflect and discern personally and with others? Are there "dreams" in our lives calling us to act from a place of trust? Do we wake up to a new awareness of the decisions that will affect our lives and those of others? Do we act with courage, knowing we affect both our own lives and the larger Mystery to which we belong?

*Marie Louise Seckar, O.P.;*  
*Edgewood College B.A., 1965*

## **Tuesday, March 20**

Numbers 21:4-9. ... with their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? ... Pray God to take the serpents away from us."

In this text the long travelling children of Israel find themselves in the desert with no food or water. After complaining about their situation, here come the serpents!

I must admit, sometimes my faith feels empty and dry, perhaps like being in that desert with the children of Israel. I try to remind myself that God's grace is still present whether my faith happens to be weak or strong, but sometimes that's hard.

I've noticed that the doorway for me to a renewed experience of my faith has sometimes been opened by circumstances I find painful or that I fear, like those serpents for the children of Israel. I don't know why it takes something painful, but maybe those times when we face the hard things in our lives dislodge us somehow to know ourselves a little differently, and in turn experience a different and deeper relationship with God.

*Mike Lake, Financial Analyst*

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## **Wednesday, March 21**

Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95. Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent an angel to deliver the servants who trusted in God; they disobeyed the royal command and yielded their bodies rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Daniel 3:16 and 18 captured my thoughts as I pondered our current world events. There are multiple IDOLS (politicians, athletes, performers, etc.) who seek praise and approval all while sometimes modeling behaviors in direct opposition to our core values. At times we fall into the “fiery furnace” of despair as rhetoric condemns our vulnerable citizens, ravishes our beliefs about education and our drive for a just community and world. I remind all that the God we serve has a purpose for allowing us to step into the fire. Perhaps the fire that we are called to go through is our God’s way of providing time to rededicate ourselves to our beliefs, to refuse to bow to the world’s idols and images, and to renew our courage to act. Sister Josiene (my 8th grade Franciscan teacher) encouraged the twelve graduates to remain humble, be kind, engage in socially just actions and, always trust that God will guide.

*Frances M Johnson, Director Accelerated Secondary Program,  
Director of Special Education, School of Education*

## **Thursday, March 22**

Genesis 17:3-9. I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying.

In this passage, God takes Abraham out of the present moment, and shows him the bigger picture. This is completely relevant to each and every one of us, as we often get so caught up in the tasks of the present that we forget about the greater scope of things. It is a powerful reminder that no matter how important something seems right now -- whether it be an assignment, or an interview, or a trip to the gym -- in the grand scheme of things, it is only a small portion of one aspect of your life. It is a reminder to trust in God, and to find peace in knowing that God is always with us.

*Elizabeth Soter, Sophomore, Biology Major/Chemistry Minor*

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## **Friday, March 23**

Psalm 18:2-7. I love you, O God, my strength; O God, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer. My God, my rock of refuge, my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold! Praised be God, I exclaim, and I am safe from my enemies. The breakers of death surged round about me, the destroying floods overwhelmed me; the cords of the nether world enmeshed me, the snares of death overtook me. In my distress I called upon God and cried out; from God's temple my voice was heard, and my cry reached God's ears.

This psalm is a psalm of victory written by King David after a great battle. King David lived his entire life with passion as a cunning warrior and a man after God's own heart. In this Psalm, King David describes God's saving work, that even when facing death and darkness, God triumphs over death. Even in the chaos of battle King David knew that God is the Lord of all and put his trust in the God of justice. We are all fighting our own battles, maybe not with sword and shield, but we are all facing darkness in our lives. This battle could be financial troubles, being overburdened with school work, troubled relationships or anxiety, but we must remember to cry out to God who is our shield, our rock and our savior, and put our trust in God just as King David did.

*Nicolas Coquard, Junior, Environmental Science*

## **Saturday, March 24**

Ezekiel 37:21-28. Thus says our God: I will make with them a covenant of peace; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them.

This is a wonderful and tender text, an offer by God to be in a covenantal relation with the people God has chosen. To me it sounds like a marriage proposal – “Let us join our lives together with binding that cannot ever be broken. Our struggles and labors will be one. Our sorrows and our joys will be shared.” God invites us to be in the deepest, most fulfilling relationship with Deity. This relationship is offered by God and is meant to last forever.

When I feel like I don't have life quite nailed down or there is a glaring piece missing I must remember that I am not the instigator in my relationship with God, God is and always will be there to join with me in a relationship of truth, mercy and love.

*Kevin File, Night Supervisor, Campus Assistance Center*



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## **Holy Week – Palm Sunday, March 25**

Isaiah 50:4-7. God has given me a well-trained tongue.

While reading the first couple words of this passage, “God has given me a well-trained tongue,” I thought about how I try to offer positivity to others through my words and actions. My dad tells me that nothing good comes from negativity, and so having a positive attitude around others can change the mood. Something I have learned is that if a person brings negative energy with them wherever they are, that negativity can affect others around them. The same goes with positive energy affecting people in a positive way. I believe that God calls us to help each other; to become the best we can be and be a positive role model for others. If we trust in God, God will take care of us, just like we need to care for others in times of sorrow and loneliness.

*Devon Kaiser, Sophomore, Nursing*

## **Holy Week – Monday, March 26**

Isaiah 42:1-7. Thus says God, the Holy One, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, your God, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

It’s hard to remember that there is good in the world still. Constantly there is some form of negativity lingering- whether it be on the news or in personal relationships. I’ve heard people ask many times why God allows such darkness to occur. What I haven’t heard enough of is the fact that God isn’t the one letting us down, but instead the other way around. But God doesn’t let the fact that we blame God for our wrongdoings stop God from loving us- God sent us a perfect savior, in the form of Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins and bring us out from the darkness which we have created. God crafted every person on earth in God’s own image and loves each of us individually more than we can ever fathom. Knowing that my Heavenly Father loves me, along with the rest of the world, so unconditionally that God can forgive me for my sins and accept me into God’s arms even when I turn away- that’s enough to give me hope.

*Rachel Schmidt, Senior, Nursing*

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## **Holy Week – Tuesday, March 27**

Isaiah 49:1-6. I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

In this scripture, Isaiah speaks a word of hope. God calls all of God's servants to a larger mission – "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." A cue that people do not exist for themselves alone. God's healing moves outward, expanding toward the community that is larger than oneself. This reminds me of our purpose with the students we serve, and of our Dominican mission – "Recognizing our interdependence with one another and with this world." What do we need from others, from ourselves, and what resources do we need to accomplish our purpose? Our heritage reminds us to seek different perspectives, knowledge bases, and abilities from others to enhance our own achievements in order to contribute to building a more just and compassionate world. Restoration of individuals is never only about that, but expanding toward the fulfillment of humankind.

*Sara Hanson, Director of Career Development,  
Academic Success and Career Development*

## **Holy Week – Wednesday, March 28**

Matthew 26:14-25. One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

*"From that time on"* Judas looks for a chance to hand Jesus over. Matthew used that phrase – *from that time on*– twice earlier in his Gospel, each time making an important shift.

The *first* was after Jesus' temptation in the desert. *"From that time on* Jesus began to preach." It marked the beginning of his public life. The *second* was when Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" and Peter professed him to be the Son of God. *From that time on* Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly."

Today's Gospel reading uses the phrase for the *third* time at another turning point, the moment when Judas (who must have been thinking about this for quite some time) decides to betray Jesus.

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Looking back on my own life, what are the turning points that marked a shift for good or for ill...the mileposts that I can look back to and say: *From that time on...?* A year from now, looking back to today, how would I like to be able to finish that sentence, *From that time on...?*

*Bishop Ken Untener, The Little Black Book  
(Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, 2004)*

### **Holy Thursday, March 29**

John 13:1-15. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

This passages reminds me of my experiences going to Luke House, a meal program on the east side of Madison. Paul, the director of the program, is constantly telling us volunteers that the real purpose of Luke House is not to serve others, but to allow ourselves to be served. It is as much about slowing down and building community as it is about serving dinner. In order to serve others effectively, we need to take ourselves out of a position of privilege, out of a position of power, and experience what it is like to be served. This is difficult for many people to do, as it was difficult for Simon Peter to let Jesus wash his feet. However, when we allow ourselves to be served, we reveal our vulnerabilities and discover new empathy for the people at our table. They are no longer "others" but part of our larger community.

*Rachael Lancor, Associate Professor,  
Chemistry, Physics and Geoscience*

### **Good Friday, March 30**

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9. In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

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Many explanations of what is “good” about Good Friday say, “Jesus’ death gives us salvation,” and that is very good. Some say all we have to do is “believe” this and we are good to go. But the mystery is so much richer... and challenging! Hebrews does not say “for all who believe” but “for all who obey him.” Jesus learned how to do this through suffering. His obedience (<ob-audire= intensive listening) was not “obeying a command” but a “deep listening” to God’s self-emptying love present and active in all he experienced and suffered. I can relate to “loud cries and tears” but I have a long way to go in learning to listen deeply to what God reveals through all my experiences, weaknesses, temptations, and suffering. It would be easier to “believe” that Jesus’ death “saves” me from all this. But deep-listening “obedience” to Self-Emptying Love IS salvation... and it is very good!

*John Leonard, Professor and Chairperson in Religious Studies*

### **Holy Saturday, March 31**

**Baruch 3:9-15, 32–4:4.** Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life: listen, and know prudence! Who has found the place of wisdom, who has entered into her treasuries?

This astonishingly beautiful text from Baruch, proclaimed among a chorus of readings for our Easter Vigil, is filled with words, phrases, remembering and promises that at times sound harsh, challenging, sometimes rebuking as well as comforting and revealing.

It recalls for us the story of a wandering people, reaching back in history to a time of Exile. A people searching, seeking a clear direction. Wandering and wondering “where is our God?” Exile is a reality for many people in our world today. Daily we read and hear stories of people driven from their own land, separated from families, friends and cultures. Separated from all that is familiar. Although many of us do not experience physical exile, we do know personal challenges and losses that cause us to sometimes sense a disconnection and wonder ~ “where is God?” In this Easter Wisdom proclamation, we are reminded to look, listen and remember that our God is faithful and always with us. Like Mary standing at the empty tomb, we too hear and discover anew the presence of God with us, surrounding us, throughout all of our life pilgrimage. We too are filled with deep peace and Wisdom.

*Maggie Hopkins, O.P.,  
Vice President for Dominican Life and Mission*

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## **Easter Sunday, April 1**

John 20 1:-9. On the first day of the week, Mary Magdala came to the tomb, early in the morning, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first...

This gospel is a puzzling choice for Easter. Where in the midst of all this running can we find Good News?

I remember racing Sarah Cooley to the corner every morning. She was good at running. No matter how hard I tried I never won the race. This gospel text is a variation of that childhood game, but for us it has an adult twist. The one who gets there first enters last, the slow runner goes in first and the one who ran and found her brothers, never enters at all. The race, the rush, the reason for all the running does not feel like EASTER!

Resurrection is not a one time happening! Resurrection is both a portent and a promise for all of creation. Resurrection is something we practice everyday. Wendell Berry reminds us: "BE JOYFUL, THOUGH YOU HAVE CONSIDERED ALL THE FACTS, PRACTICE RESURRECTION!"

*Ann Willits, O.P.,  
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa*

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e are so glad you have taken this Lenten journey with us into a landscape of reflection, thoughtful study, and action on behalf of others. Some have likened the spiritual journey to an ascent toward a mountain top whose lower geography is replete with valleys, forests, rugged terrain, rushing streams, deep rivers, and uneven, sometimes barely discernible pathways. This journey, the journey of life, is one we share together. God touches each one of our lives and encourages us toward the ascent. We hope these reflections and the community we share together encourage you further on.

We welcome your feedback. Please email [jmaglior@edgewood.edu](mailto:jmaglior@edgewood.edu). Thank you to all who have contributed reflections for this Season of Lent.

*Dominican Life and Mission  
Edgewood College*

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Sr. Chiara Pauloni, O.P., *Magdalen embraces the risen "SON"*  
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