

Lenten Reflection

Thursday after Ash Wednesday March 2, 2017



By Sister Kathleen Angel, CDP

If we read a few verses before the Gospel from Luke, we hear Christ asking his apostles “Who do you say that I am?” Peter gives the answer. We might editorialize and have Peter say, “What is wrong with you? Of course, we know who you are. You are the Messiah?”

But who is the Messiah to Peter? Would He be the King who has come to Israel to free His people? The King who resides on the golden throne of glory? Or would He be the Suffering Servant from Isaiah enthroned on the cross of sacrifice who frees His people from a different type of burden?

Through the next forty days we will answer this question for ourselves. Not with words but with the actions of our everyday lives. The readings and proper prayers of this day give us a blueprint for renewing our response to our Messiah.

For example, the Entrance Antiphon tells us to entrust our cares to the Lord who supports us. Depend on Providence for all your needs. The Collect suggests that all our actions begin from our God. In the first reading Moses tells us to obey God’s commandments loving Him and walking in His ways. What are the hallmarks of “His way”?

The Responsorial Psalm reminds us to hope in God.

In the Gospel, we hear the first prophesy of the Passion. Then we hear the admonition, “if anyone wishes to come after me, they must deny themselves, and take up their cross daily and follow Christ.” What are the elements of our individual crosses each day?

The Prayer over the Offerings asks that our offering be acceptable and our oblations give honor to God’s name. We end by asking for a pure heart and the gifts of pardon and salvation.

