



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee April 2025

Naming It

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

It's the perennial question: Why is there so much evil in the world? We wonder why God permits it...it seems so contrary to God's mercy. Whatever religion we name as our path, we will struggle with this ancient question.

It is happening everywhere in the cosmos, but Christians give it a distinct name and meaning. It is called the Paschal Mystery. But it is more than just a name. It is a daily reality. Each of us dies a thousand little deaths, and each of us rises, over and over again. It is Love's work: taking something despicable and transforming it into something beautiful.

The season we Christians call "Lent" is reaching its culmination. Easter is on the horizon, and we await it eagerly. For six weeks we have pondered the horrendous effects of evil's violence on a human being, a God-possessed man. In his torture and death we see mirrored our treatment to one another, and we repent of it. Then Easter bursts upon the scene, and we are shown what God intends to do about evil, how it will be swallowed up in selfless love.

We will watch in stupefied wonder how the human is transformed, and how that transformation can become our own. What is going on here? Even nature enters into this rhythm: dying and rising, autumn/winter followed by spring/summer, death and then new life. Then we will spend over thirty weeks liturgically pondering how this human transformation becomes our own.

Don't miss it. It is going on all around you. It is going on in you.

Manure is awful stuff...Don't keep it in the kitchen.

But spread in the field it will do its magic.

Grasped to earth's breast, manure makes the seed swell with life.

Decay transfigures to the luscious life of fruit and veggie, grass and clover.

"Dust you are, and to dust you shall return..."

Who, me...? Yes, you. "Body of Christ..."

Amen.

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Thank you to Associate Kathie Solie for this month's reflections.

Sunday, April 6, 2025 | John 8:1-11

We see here some of the plotting that was going on against Jesus. He sits among the crowd, humbly teaching. Then, he is challenged to approve the stoning death of a woman who had violated the moral code of the day. Knowing what they were about, Jesus called them on their own sinfulness. Before I judge anyone, I better pause and look at myself and my own failures.

Sunday, April 13, 2025 | PALM SUNDAY | Luke 19:28-40

There is deep meaning in these words. Clearly his disciples are convinced he is the promised King. They proclaim this awesome thought with joy and vigor. His opposers tell them to stop. But, knowing the truth of who he is, Jesus will not rebuke them. Are there times when I shut down when challenged? What am I willing to suffer in the name of Jesus?

Sunday, April 20, 2025 | RESURRECTION OF THE LORD | John 20:1-9

While the followers of Jesus hid in fear and grief, it took the courage of a woman, Mary of Magdala, to go to the place where Jesus had been entombed. She was devastated to see he was not there. The stone which closed the tomb had been moved and only the cloths he had died in lay on the rocks. Then, he appears to Mary. As he instructed her, she ran to tell the disciples what she had seen and what she had been told. What courage! What love for her Lord! How does my courage and love compare? Worthy of some serious thought.

Sunday, April 27, 2025 | John 20: 19-31

These words, attributed to John, offer a deeply moving image of Jesus appearing to his disciple and proving to them that it truly was him. He breathes the Spirit into them and gives them a challenge. While sitting with this reading, my mind recalled what I had been taught about my baptism and the commissioning of being confirmed twice. With those memories, I could almost feel the breath of Jesus. What am I called to in my remaining years? May that breath clear my mind and heart and carry me forward. Would you care to walk with me?

