



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee *May 2025*

The Promise

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

It is no mistake that there are 40 days of Lent, but 50 Days to Pentecost. The days of Promise top the days of penance. The tears of repentance give way to the shouts of “Alleluia!” But what is this ‘promise’...?

Because he has taken on our flesh...our very DNA, what happens with Christ Jesus, happens with us, and what happens with us, happens with him. So keep your eyes on the prize. He is the promise.



He is the promise that the pain, the grief, the struggle will not win. Hope and life will win. What is sick, broken, and wounded will not win...transformation, indeed transfiguration, will win...for him and for you and for us, for we are in this together as a people. What God has joined together...the Word with our humble humanness...we cannot separate. Such is the promise of the Incarnation.

But in the meantime the apostles had to be ‘weened.’ Yes, like newborn babes they needed to be weened from the sweetness of his constant presence. They were used to the company of the human Jesus, day by day, meals, around the campfire, walking from place to place. That was not to be anymore. Read the Easter scriptures carefully. “Now you see me, now you don’t...” seems to be the theme. Jesus is different. He is what we are to be. He is a transformed, transfigured human being. His relationship with them is now to be different too. They were being trained in deepened faith and so are we in this Easter season.

The promise challenge us to be people of faith, not of sight. The early Church was being called to live by faith in his promise to be “...with you until the end...” We are being called to do the same. We believe...because he promised.

When I am overwhelmed by grief...?

“I am with you...”

When I am uncertain, confused, and scared...?

“I am with you...”

When the world seems bent on self-destruction...?

“I am with you...I promise.”

Thank you to Associate Tesha Kathryn Urban for this month's reflections.

May 4, 2025 | Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

The disciples have journeyed through the cross and beyond — deciding, now, to return to an everyday familiar activity: Fishing. They meet a stranger who gives them a tip so miraculous that they relive a precious encounter that signals the stranger's identity (and theirs) (see Luke 5:4-11). It is the risen Christ, revealed in the everyday familiar. The disciples become alive again, because they recognize Jesus continues to be alive with them. How do you encounter the risen Christ in the everyday familiar? How might you (or have you) encountered a stranger, only to recognize God's presence was with you, enlivening you?

May 11, 2025 | Acts 13:14, 43-52; Revelation 7:9, 14b-17; John 10:27-30

We find Jesus meeting with the gathered, drawing upon imagery from Psalm 23, as he relays what it means to be one of his "sheep." With faith in the "Good Shepherd," Jesus' followers are protected and secure in God's hands, not some emperor. "What [God] has given me is greater than all else," Jesus says, and "no one can snatch it out of [God's] hand." God is in control with authority. Reflect upon the miracles of God. Consider listening to a special song, called "Your Hands" by JJ Heller. Nothing, and no one, can separate Jesus' followers from the hands of God.

May 18, 2025 | Acts 14:21-27; Revelation 21:1-5a; John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Jesus knows his "hour had come", and this prompts him to simplify all his teachings and legacy into a new commandment: "Love one another." Jesus' followers can take comfort in knowing that God's glory would be revealed — not by the worldly might of Caesar, but by the otherworldly love of Jesus. "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Love is the signpost for which Jesus' followers would be known, and God's glory would be revealed. Jesus' words would be a lasting echo into the heart chambers of his disciples, and our own. How have you experienced the otherworldly love of Jesus?

May 25, 2025 | Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29

Jesus foreshadows his death, preparing his disciples for life without him. He tends to their hearts and minds lovingly, because he knows his disciples will experience grief and loss in his absence. Their feelings are important to him. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be sent in his name to teach them everything. Jesus helps to ease their hearts and calm their fears with an otherworldly peace. They need not fear the future, because Jesus and God will make a home with those who love them and keep their word. Reflect on your own learnings of the Holy Spirit. Through your own grief, loss, and fears, how do you experience the presence of the Holy Spirit? Consider how God continues to make a home with you.