

## Holy Tuesday Year A 'at home' Meditation: April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Opening Prayer

Strong as a rock, safe as a castle on a cliff,  
is the love of God, our maker?

Powerful as a story,  
bright as a light in the darkness  
is the love of Jesus, our redeemer?

Wild as the wind,  
tender as a loving parent  
is the love of God, the Holy Spirit?

*@spillthebeans, adapted by Cynthia Page*

### John 12:20-36 The Message A Grain of Wheat Must Die



<sup>20-21</sup> There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?" <sup>22-23</sup> Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24-</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to

life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal. <sup>26</sup> "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honour and reward anyone who serves me. <sup>27-28</sup> "Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'" A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The listening crowd said, "Thunder!" Others said, "An angel spoke to him!" <sup>30-33</sup> Jesus said, "The voice didn't come for me but for you. At this moment the world is in crisis. Now Satan, the ruler of this world, will be thrown out. And I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me." He put it this way to show how he was going to be put to death. <sup>34</sup> Voices from the crowd answered, "We heard from God's Law that the Messiah lasts forever. How can it be necessary, as you put it, that the Son of Man 'be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?" <sup>35-36</sup> Jesus said, "For a brief time still, the light is among you. Walk by the light you have so darkness doesn't destroy you. If you walk in darkness, you don't know where you're going. As you have the light, believe in the light. Then the light will be within you, and shining through your lives. You'll be children of light."

### Reflection

**Narrator:** Jerusalem was crowded. The streets were busy. People had come in from the country even from other countries for the Passover festival. In the midst of the crowds was Jesus, and with him his disciples. Those who were near enough to him could hear what he was saying. Those further back caught snatches his words. Listen.

**Andrew:** He's talking about seeds and how a seed only grows when it's buried in the earth.

**Abbey:** He's talked about seeds before, he told a really good story about a sower.

**Andrew:** But this is different, it sounds more like a story about death and burial.

**John:** He's talking about eternal life.

**Rachel:** He said once that loving your neighbour and yourself and loving God with everything you've got was the way to eternal life.

**John:** I remember that. He's saying now that anyone who loves their life in this world will lose it.

**Rachel:** I wonder what he means by that.

**John:** Maybe he's going to say more.

**Andrew:** He's talking about death again. He seems to be praying. Something about an hour and glory.

**Abbey:** Wow! Was that thunder? What a rumble!

**Andrew:** Someone's saying that the thunder was an angel speaking to Jesus.

**Abbey:** An angel? Wow! What kind of an angel makes a noise like that?

**John:** He's talking about judgement now and the Son of Man and the Messiah.

**Rachel:** People have asked him before if he's the messiah.

**John:** He's saying that he's going to be lifted up and everyone is going to be able to see what's happening to him.

**Andrew:** He's telling us to walk in the light because soon it's going to be dark. He says if you walk in the dark you don't know where you're going.

**Abbey:** That's true enough—I can understand that.

**Andrew:** He's telling us if light is in us we'll be people of light.

**Abbey:** I remember he told us that we shouldn't hide our light, that the light in us must shine so that people will see good things in us and give God glory. That made sense to me. I've never forgotten it.

**Rachel:** What's he saying now?

**John:** I don't know. He seems to have disappeared.

**Narrator:** Jerusalem was crowded. The streets were busy. People had come in from the country even from other countries for the Passover festival. In the midst of the crowds was Jesus, and with him his disciples.

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### **Activity**

- Re-read the Gospel reading and the Reflection.
- What jumps out at you?
- What 'shimmers' for you?
- Sit quietly and reflect on that.
- Express your reflection with words, a drawing or a symbolic diagram.
- Share your thoughts and feelings with God in prayer.

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### **Blessing**

Go now and walk with Jesus on the streets of Jerusalem.

Listen to his words, be with him on his journey.

Let his light and love shine in you are around you  
and let him challenge you.

And may God bless you,

the Maker, the Son and the Holy Spirit

this night and all your nights and days. Amen. *©spillthebeans*