

LENT

The cosmos dreams in me
While I wait in stillness,
Ready to lean a little further
Into the heart of the Holy.

I, a little blip of life
A wisp of unassuming love
A quickly passing breeze
Come once more into Lent

No need to sign me
With the black bleeding ash
Of palms, fried and baked,
I know my humus place

This lent I will sail
Of graced wings of desire,
Yearning to go deeper
In the place where
I am one in the One

Oh, may I go there soon,
In the same breath
That takes me to the stars
When the cosmos dreams in me

Joyce Rupp

Reflection prepared by Scholastica Mutua

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Our Lenten Journey with Jesus



As we begin our own Lenten journey,
we need to recall and remember
that we are not setting out on this journey on our own.
God is with us walking by our side in
every step of the way.

21 February 2021



Introduction

The connection between the first and second reading of today highlights God's promise of not punishing his chosen people again like in the time of Noah. The creation is given a new beginning, a new opportunity to live

in the harmony that God intended. Note, however, that this new beginning is also a continuation; God does not create new beings, but begins anew with a remnant of the beings created at the beginning.

We don't have to live in anxiety about past sins. We can know with certainty that our deliverance from judgment is based on God's faithfulness to the promises of His Word.

On the other hand, we are experiencing the scorching desert of the pandemic which has destroyed everything on its path. The pain and loss runs so deep and now in the new



normal, people are trying to find how to cope and live with it. Like Jesus in the desert, God will send us *His angels to minister to us* and help us to defeat this vile enemy and our consolation at this time is the assurance of God's presence.

Reading: Mark 1:12-15

Reflection

The temptation in Mark's Gospel, as well as the parallel accounts of the temptation in the other Gospels, is the preparation for Jesus' public ministry.



He is tempted with the false gifts of power, prestige and wealth. His power and identity come from God. Jesus knows who he is, where he comes from and where he is going on his own journey.

Our daily temptations may not be as dramatic as those of Jesus, but they are no less real or dangerous. Ours are more than likely to be far more ordinary and subtle. As ordinary as they may seem, but in the end they all add up. When we are tempted, we have two choices; to rely on our strength or humbly turn to God as Jesus did and ask for help.

Lent offers us the opportunity to recall and renew the presence of God in our own daily lives. He calls us and invites us to follow him with these words, *'Take up your cross and come with me.'* He walks by our side offering us words of support, comfort and strength, especially when we are tempted.

He leaves the desert with these powerful words which he offers us today; *'The time has come, the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'* What is this Good News that Jesus asks us to hear and believe? The good news that each of us is created, loved and forgiven by God.

Reflection

- ***What in my life distracts me from God?***
- ***What is God inviting me to during this Lent?***