

5th SUNDAY OF LENT – 21 MARCH 2021

THE PATH TO LIFE AND LIGHT



1. Opening

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. (Psam 43,3)

2. Listening to the Word

□ *Scripture Reading: John 12:20-33* Let the Word sink into the deep space of your heart.

- The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified...
- Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit...
- And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself...



In every death, there is life. The grain of wheat will die but that death is not the end, it is the beginning of new life. One grain that dies gives life to hundreds of new grains and will through death nourish us with food. In the death of relationships, of health and all that may be dear to us, there is always the invitation to new life, to deeper life.



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Rosa Dâng has been struggling with cancer over three years now. She is at the terminal phase of her illness. The physical pain is excruciating, it's stuck in her lungs, her abdomen, her back, her swollen legs. But never a complaint has been uttered, never a groan heard. And mysteriously, in the soil of this silent suffering, flourish compassion and support. I have never seen a patient surrounded with so much attentive love and tender care by Sisters, family and friends.



I myself have grown in the soil of this suffering. One day I was massaging her back. With all my gentle energy and a fervent prayer. A cry of the heart to God for her. I was not asking for anything, not knowing what to ask for... It was just a whisper of trust to God, the God of Life and Love. Prayer becomes a silence of trust, a dialogue of trusting silence between God and me.

Suffering is a catalyst for light and insights.

Rosa Dâng is like a bamboo water conduit channeling blessings of God for us. To allow the free flow of the blessings, she has to be emptied, to be shaped, to surrender... to let go so that new life can be for her and for others.

3. To be One with the Word

Life, it seems, is a natural journey from ego building, from gaining one's name and fame to ego-transcendence... This journey is an ongoing process of letting go, of dispossession, of dying toward deeper life, real life for self and others. Salt gives its taste by dissolving in water. A candle gives light by burning its wick and melting its wax.

Let's pray with the following poem:

I want to have	HE wanted to be
You want to have	to be obedient
He wants to have	to be faithful
She wants to have	to be small
We want to have	to be poor
They want to have	to be Love
All – want to have	to be forgiveness
	to be hope
To have books	to be the friend of all
To have friends	
To have money	to be <i>so much</i>
To have knowledge	that finally
To have power	he had nothing left
To have recognition	not even himself
To have love	But God had him
	and
	HE STILL IS
	I also want to be.
	So that He will have me!

Sigrid Becker

(In “*In the Stillness You Will Know*”, **Barbara Fiand**, p.72-73)

Silence for prayer and contemplation

4. Praying for new Life and Light

Through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, God our Father has shown his immense love for us, and so we pray:

- May we be one with Christ in his self-emptying, dying and rising every day to allow the springing up of new life for ourselves and for others. Loving God, hear our prayer.
- May we be held in the communion of love in your heart, our Triune God, so that we can witness to your love, your passion and compassion for our broken world. Loving God, hear our prayer.
- May our brothers and sisters, victims of violence and repression, the ill, the grieving and the dying feel the love of your presence and the power of your healing touch. Loving God, hear our prayer.
- May all Christians persecuted for their faith throughout the world experience the love of your support, the strength of the Spirit, and share in the faithfulness and courage of Christ. Loving God, hear our prayer.

Our Father

5. Concluding prayer

God of Love and Life, you are the beginning and the end, the One who, in Christ your Son, leads us out of death into life.

You know we live in a world that needs redemption. Show us how to hold to you. Give us hope when all seems lost and trust when we feel bereft.

Let your healing light transform us into the image of your Son. For Christ alone can bring new life and make us whole.

Help us be people who nurture, giving life to those who feel abandoned or let down in any way.

We pray to you in the Name of Jesus, our life and our peace. Amen.



Kim Phung PHAM - Vietnam Province.