

Lenten Reflection

Saturday, Fourth Week of Lent April 1, 2017



By Associate Mary Flick, CSJ

“...To you I have entrusted my cause!”

The drama of our Lenten story mounts in today’s readings, as we find ourselves just two weeks from the sacred Triduum. In today’s first reading, the prophet Jeremiah is paralleled with Jesus. Jeremiah calls himself “a trusting lamb led to slaughter,” much like the Lamb of God who awaits his own sacrifice. The plotting of his enemies calls forth in this man of God, Jeremiah, a faith-filled, trusting response. He professes the prayer of all people of Providence: “to you I have entrusted my cause.”

In the gospel, we find the plot thickens over who this Jesus is, and divisive opinions separate the people, the guards, and even the Pharisees. Jesus is not present in the passage, but all talk is of him. Who is he? The Prophet? The Christ? Not even the guards can arrest him, for “Never before has anyone spoken like this man.”

What is it about this Jesus that stirs so much division? He does not meet expectations; no prophet comes from Galilee. He does not preach rebellion, but peace. He does not follow the letter of the law. And so, he upsets the status quo, dividing even the body of the Pharisees. “Each went to his own house” – home to be with his own thoughts, unopen to this man of God, Jesus, and his teachings.

Yes, Jesus is poignantly absent from the swirling controversy in this gospel passage. But we know where he rests. Like Jeremiah, Jesus continues to give his Father this assurance: “to you I have entrusted my cause.”

When faced with conflict, am I open to the surprising works of God, or do I retreat to my own house to defend my own case? To whom have I entrusted my cause? As this fourth week of Lent closes, perhaps it’s time to ask myself: how am I growing in trust and openness to the Providence of God?

