



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney's Lent Course 2024

THE WAY TO THE CROSS

TUESDAY 26 MARCH



Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49.1-7, Psalm 71.1-14, 1 Corinthians 1.18-31, John 12:20-36

John 12:20-36

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say-- 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Collect for Tuesday of Holy Week

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. May our lives be so transformed by his passion that we may witness to his grace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Short Gospel Reflection

The Gospel reading appointed for the Tuesday of Holy Week is the Greeks asking to see Jesus, This is a reading set for the Fifth Sunday of Lent in Year B, so a chance to look at it again. What does it mean to you to be a child of the light, to have the light and believe in the light?

The other readings set for this day (different to Sunday 17 March). In the Hebrew Bible reading from Isaiah 49.1-7 there is one of the songs of the suffering servant. The Psalm appointed for the day: Psalm 71 begins with the author's plea "In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame" (Ps. 71.1). The Psalm is spoken by someone crying out for help, they are seeking refuge and are being honest about the situations they find themselves in. In the reading from 1 Corinthians 1,18-31 speaks of the power and wisdom of God and how this is shown to humanity through Christ. Paul is writing to a group of people at different stages of belief in Jesus and used to traditional (for then) arguing styles. The apostle uses signs as evidence of who Jesus was and is, and how that should influence how we respond to God's call in love on our lives.

Words from Others

"The way, like the cross, is spiritual: that is an inward submission of the soul to the will of God, as it is manifested by the light of Christ in the consciences of men, though it be contrary to their own inclinations." - *William Penn*

"In spite of our sinfulness, in spite of the darkness surrounding our souls, the Grace of the Holy Spirit, conferred by baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, still shines in our hearts with the inextinguishable light of Christ ... and when the sinner turns to the way of repentance the light smooths away every trace of the sins committed, clothing the former sinner in the garments of incorruption, spun of the Grace of the Holy Spirit. It is this acquisition of the Holy Spirit about which I have been speaking." - *Seraphim of Sarov*

Music for Holy Tuesday

- *Holy Tuesday - Believe in the Light* by Pete Crockett
- *Children of Light* by Joel Houston (Hillsong)
- *I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light* by Kathleen Thomerson
- *Christ is the World's True Light* by G.W. Briggs sung to Rinkart (J.S. Bach).

If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

John 12.35

Usual Weekly Pattern

Sunday
RCL Eucharist
Readings and Collect

Monday
Delving Deeper into
the Readings

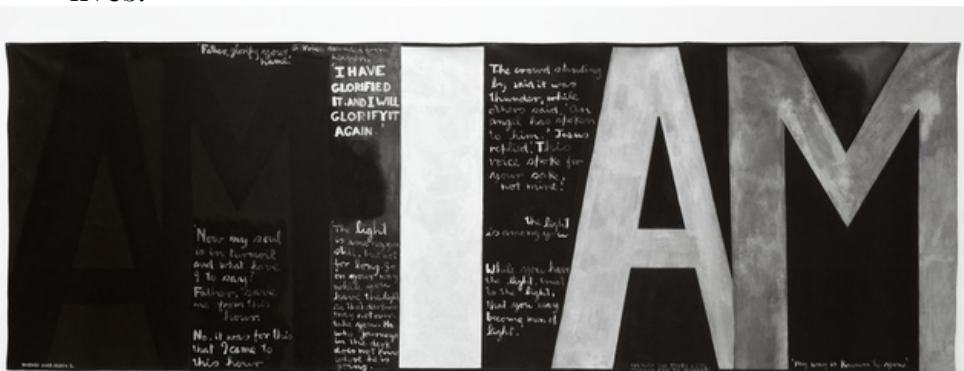
Tuesday
Words from Others
(sacred & secular)

Wednesday
Resources from the
Arts

Thursday
Contemplative Acts

Friday
Personal Reflection
- what this means to
me

Saturday
Acts & Deeds



Victory Over Death 2, 1970, Synthetic polymer paint on unstretched canvas, 207.5 x 597.7 cm, The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Gift of the New Zealand Government 1978, NGA 79.1436, © Colin McCahon Research and Publication Trust; Gift of the New Zealand Government 1978 / Bridgeman Images



Edgar Degas (1834-1917), *Three Dancers in Yellow Skirts* (c. 1891) Detroit Institute of Arts

In Degas' *Three Dancers* how are the dancers looking, seeing and sensing? How does this connect to the Gospel passage and the request to see Jesus and Jesus' response in metaphor about wheat, grain and abundance?

Christos by Ahmad Almallah

Jesus: a prophet or a god
Because in the shop, he
Made, as every carpenter
Of the time:
 Tables and chairs—
Out of wood came the
 Word,
As the original impulse
 Was to hide
Behind an act. One can't
Be a prophet or a god with-
Out a cover. Something to
Do
 Till the word
 Gets around—
So to speak—and as metal
Was not a thing for laymen
To play around with, it had
To be wood,
 The only dry thing
That could catch
Fire, and lead—like the
Word—peoples, animals
And angels—off course,
 Toward the light.

You are my
hope,
O Lord my
God

*Refrain for
Psalm 71.1-14*



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