

To Ponder:

Cultivating God's Garden through Lent

By Margaret Rose Realy, Obl. OSB

Most living things experience a passage from darkness to light. Whether it is in the womb of the body or the womb of the earth, germination takes place in the absence of light. A seed is planted in the dark soil, and with minimal effort on our part, it grows.

The miracle of plant seeds is that everything needed for growth is contained within and waiting to be expressed.

It is awe inspiring when we realize that God chose the things of the earth to express Himself to us. From the simplest thing of a garden, the seed, comes the greatest revelation. It is from the grain of wheat and the fruit of grapes that we receive bread and wine — bread to nourish and wine to gladden.

The Divine Seed, Jesus, like most seeds, germinated in the dark. He germinated in the darkness of Mary's womb, and grew a religion from a blackened tomb in the earth.

We understand darkness. We were born from a place without light, and our earth was formed out of darkness. Much like the seed to which the absence of light is essential to set root and grow, we too have an inner need for darkness. Without the experience of darkness, we would not recognize light. Our roots of belief grow in the fact that Jesus rose from the darkness of this Passion, He rose from an earthen tomb. We sprout and develop faith, our light drawn to His light.

We bear fruit by being nourished and fed by that which came from the earth — wheat and grapes, bread and wine. And with seeds from the Fruits of the Spirit, we plant kernels of goodness and pray that these seeds too will germinate and take root.

Reading:

John 12: 27-36

“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince 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 show the kind of death he was going to die.

The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.”

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

Song

Let Your Light Shine in the Darkness
New Scottish Hymns

Father God you look on me
Yet see no sin or shame
You see your Son who died for all
to take away my blame

He left his Father's glorious throne
All radiance set aside
And hung alone eclipsed by sin
Til sin was crucified

Let your light shine in the darkness
Let your light shine in the darkness

Empty now the threat of death
As empty lay the grave
And all whose faith is in his life
Will know his power to save

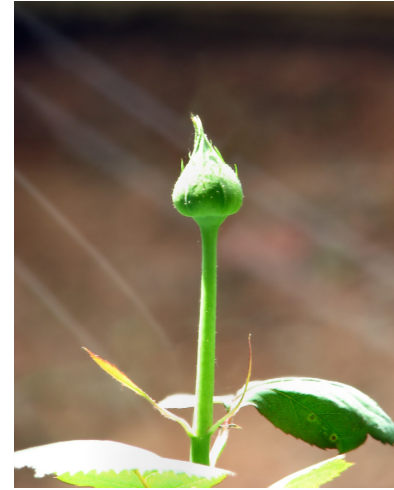
Christ returned to heaven above
In glorious light and power
And by his spirit I have hope
To light my darkest hour

Let your light shine in the darkness
Let your light shine in the darkness

As the moon reflects the sun
Now radiant we stand
Freed from sin and Satan's grip
God's kingdom is at hand

Darkness, sin and death retreat
And fell the marching dawn
His love casts out our fear and
doubt
So let his church shine on

Let your light shine in the darkness
Let your light shine in the darkness



Out of darkness
... LIGHT



Thank You For Joining Us!

Your Prayer Leader

Syndie Eardly

03/22/2016

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Our prayer is characterized by silence
Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.