

REFLECTION: Jesus, I remember a time I felt it was hard to follow you. I remember this is what happened... I remember... I remember...

What are you looking for?

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B • January 14, 2018

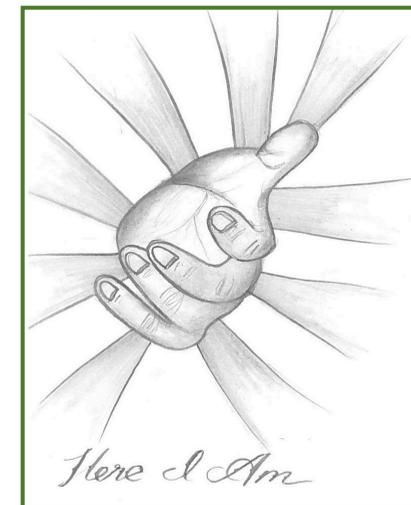
WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

Sometimes I feel like life has nothing good. It's like I feel lost in a place that no one cares about. When I look out the window and see the beautiful morning blue sky, I tell myself, there has to be more out there for me. Despite the difficulties, which I feel are necessary for change, there is a meaning in everyone's life. I know I'm not perfect, I know no one is. I struggle everyday to be good. In my lonely life there came a time when I wanted love and peace in my heart. In this process, I found God. God didn't find me; he was always there.

Now I try to live a life that would satisfy God. I live in an environment where most people act like no one cares about one another. I try to give others a helping hand when I can, even though most refuse it. I may not know the bible word for word, but I know the gift that God has given me is to help others.

Sometimes I wonder, why don't people change? I remember when I thought that I would never change, in fact, I believed I would die by the sword, just like I lived by the sword. But God has spared my life, and for that I am very thankful. I will continue to be more patient and humble and will not give up on myself and others just like God and my loved ones never gave up on me.

- Edward, who is in a California State Prison.



PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord God,
You are always there with us, but sometimes we are not attentive to your presence or get distracted with our own life and ways. Guide us through our difficulties and help us to grow closer to you by listening to your Word.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our loving Savior
R. Amen.

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

God our Father,
Help me to answer your call. Help me to be like Samuel of the Old Testament and like Andrew and Peter of the New Testament for I know this will bring the joy to my life I am looking for.

We ask in the name of Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**"

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3B-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13C-15A, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
then said I, "Behold I come."

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
to do your will, O my God, is my delight,
and your law is within my heart!"

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel: John 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

the water is sparkling
in spite of
so many people nearby
there is a deep solitude
so the baptist tells us
to follow the one
walking in the front

i stare into the river
watching as it winds
along the curves
of the land
there is a stillness
about this afternoon
it is as if you can feel
something deeper
happening
it is as if somehow
you can be brought into
what is inside
at the deepest core
where most of the time
we never go

in the distance
this one stops and sits
watching all the people
around him
he also is enjoying
the afternoon
not hurrying
feeling the flow
of the moment
feeling something deeper
happening
know i will soon
need to introduce myself

he starts to walk again
looking at him
as he passes underneath
the tallest trees
as he passes through
the shade
i have this tremendous
desire to tell him that
i have lately been trying
so hard to do something
for our country
i feel this strong desire
to talk to him
about the last five years
how hard i have tried
to find others who will be
willing take a risk
it always seems the same

MEDITATION: AWAKENING

no one seems interested
and here i am
leaving the baptist
from whom i have
learned so much
when would this journey
ever end?
when would i ever be
able to find what i was
looking for?

he moves from
underneath the shade
turning away
from the river
i watch him as he makes
the turn on the path
i still cannot
make out his face
all i can see
is his white robe
flowing as the breeze
blows against me
as he starts to ascend
the incline
i was asking myself
should i continue to
follow him or go back
to the baptist?
something within me
pushes me to also make
the turn away from
the familiar
away from what i know
to make the turn
to meet someone
different
now i was walking along
the path

reflecting
as i take each step
how i never know
what is going to happen
when i listen to what is
happening inside
i am always being
thrown off course
i am always finding
myself
walking down paths
i never thought
i would be walking in

once again he sits down
looking at the riverbed
he sees us

walking behind him
i know i need to
come closer
i know there is no
turning back
it is time to introduce
ourselves
as we approach him
he stands up
i look into his face
and he greets me
can i help you?
what are you looking for?

what am i looking for?
this search is why
i left the baptist
that is why i have taken
so many risks
that is why i have been
looking so hard
for someone who also
has a vision
what am i looking for?

i don't know why i said it
but i could not think
of anything else to say
where do you live?
so there it was

he says
come and see
i live over those hills
would you like to see
a different part
of this land?
come let us walk

so this one whom i had
never met before was
inviting me to come
to see where he lives
why would i want to walk
with him to see
where he lives?

but once again
there was this deep desire
to share with him
what i had been
experiencing
about why i like to live
in my village
what had happened
during the years to
the poor of our village

i could see he was interested
in what i was saying
we walked and walked
talking about many things
about so many events
in our lives
he asks why i wanted
to follow the baptist
and i tell him

i know he understands
he wants to know
what was the hardest
challenge of working
with the people and
what was the best part of it
during these last months
telling him
makes a difference
somehow just by telling him
there is something different
within me

arriving at his house
passing through the doors
feeling that something new
is happening
that i will never be the same
just like i felt at the river
i know something deeper
is happening

i was sitting around his table
we begin to speak
about more of our lives
i can tell him anything
as the afternoon passes
into night
as we pass the hours talking
i feel how important it is
to have found someone
who understands
what i am saying

how important it is
not to keep so much
enclosed within me
we spent that afternoon
sharing what is within us
offering his friendship
which i know
will deepen with time
i know this time
i have found the one
i had been looking for

