



## **Prelude**

### **Welcome/Introduction**

P: The story of Jesus includes many moments around tables, as this was part of his ritual of relationship even to the last. In this fifth week of the Lent season, we will hear a story of love and devotion from the disciple Mary, directed at Jesus at the table. As we will see, Jesus tries to prepare his beloved companions for his death. Talk of death is like a gut-punch to many of us; we would rather believe we and our loved ones are invincible, are able to will ourselves into being strong. We all know that isn't always how the story goes. We are fragile. Our lives, like the plants in the gardens we tend, are susceptible to elemental dangers and a life-cycle of letting go in order to live.

### **\*Theme Song: "Good Enough"**

What in our lives do we dream a-bout for to - mor-row, void of sor-row?

5 Timespent re - gret-ting de - ci - sions of our yes-ter-days, mi - stakes we made?

9 Some-times we get what we get, life dis - ap-oints us and yet,

13 God is still here and some - how, this faith is good e - nough.

***\*Prayer of the Day: Based on Psalm 126***

Let us pray together:

**Holy One, Lover of Souls, we call out to you. You know our tears and sorrows, and you bear the seeds of grief with us. Open us this day to your comfort that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy– the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.**

**Amen.**

***\*Honest Questions, Compassionate Response***

Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. “Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

*Silent Reflection*

Hear this compassionate word from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians: **“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”**

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ’s vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Gospel Reading: John 12:1-8***

***Sermon: “We are fragile”*** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

***Prayers of the People Song: “That Is Enough for Me”***

Fragility is not only OK, it is also necessary. To know and respect our own limited nature, our vulnerability to the forces of life, we are able to see and be with those who are hurting. We enter our prayers for all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit–vowing to tend with care to those for whom deaths, of many kinds, seem near.



1. Though all a - long our dail - y pil - grim race our treas - ures small and ve - ry few may be,  
 2. When food and rai - ment are not ev - er sure, and sim - ple fare is hard to get for some,



our souls are blest with God's un - end - ing grace, and that is e - nough, e - nough for me.  
 we work to share our goods with one and all, and that is e - nough, e - nough for me.



Oh that's \_\_\_\_\_ e - nough for me, \_\_\_\_\_ God's  
 Oh, that's \_\_\_\_\_ e - nough for me, \_\_\_\_\_ God's



truth \_\_\_\_\_ has set me free; \_\_\_\_\_ The love \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ has  
 truth \_\_\_\_\_ has set me free; \_\_\_\_\_ A love \_\_\_\_\_ like Christ's is



sanc - ti - fied my soul, And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is e - nough for \_\_\_\_\_ me.  
 meant for ev - 'ry soul, And \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is e - nough for \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings— no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives— we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we plant into the produce of love.

**Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**A Blessing for the week by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie:**

**“A Blessing for When You’re in Grief”**

*"Blessed are you, dear, dear one, doing this holy work of suffering what must be suffered. Of grieving what has been lost. Of knowing the unthinkable truth that must be known. This grief can make you feel on the other side of glass from the world around you, a force field of different realities separating you. Yet blessed are you in yours, for yours is the one most seen by God who breathes compassion upon you, even now. Who has walked this path, and who leans toward you, gathering you up into the arms of love. Rest now, dear one. You are not alone."*

***Benediction***

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the grief-stricken parts, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. **Amen.**

***Sending Song: “Healer of Our Every Ill”*** ..... ELW 612

***Dismissal***

God is still here and somehow,  
**This faith is good enough.**  
Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude***

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