



Practice Resurrection

Lenten Reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus

~ February 17, 2021 ~

Know

"God, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

~ Luke 23:34



*You are invited to light a candle as a sign that Jesus is present with you in Spirit.
You can print off the image on the last page for you or your children to colour.*

*Feel free to sing along with the songs.
Please read the **bold print**.*

WELCOME

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
the communion of the Holy Spirit,
and the fellowship of the saints be with you all.
be with you all.

GREETING PRAYER ~ *Flourishing (Psalm 119)*

Teach me, oh God, to follow your decrees.
Give me understanding; your word, I wanna keep.
Direct me in the path of your commands,
For there I find delight; my will is in your hands.

Turn my heart away from worthless things.
Preserve my life according to your ways.
Take away disgrace;
You hold me in my place—flourishing.

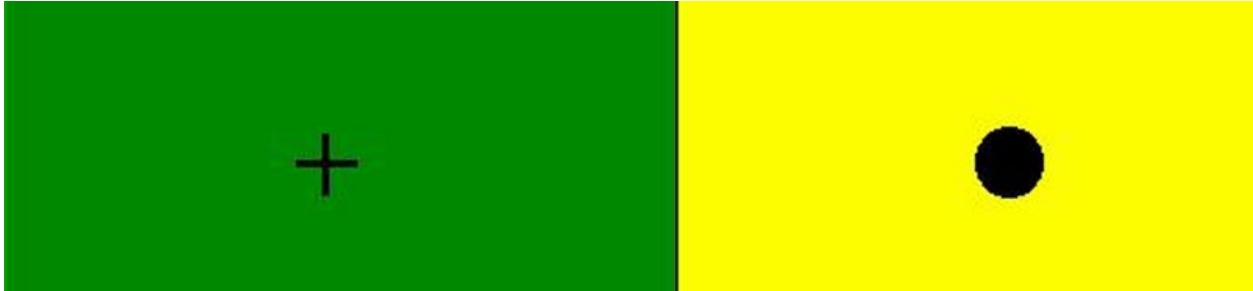
Fulfill your promise to the ones you love.
Within your ways we walk, for your laws are good.
Temptation loses pow'r, my soul's revived
In righteousness, oh God, preserve my life.

—Sandra McCracken

SETTING THE TABLE

All of us have blind spots. To find yours, try this “blind spot test.”

- Look at the green and yellow image below with your nose positioned in the middle between the plus sign and the circle.
- Cover your left eye, and look at the plus sign with your right eye.
- Keeping your focus on the plus sign, move closer to the image, slowly.
- When the circle disappears, your brain has filled the gap with the surrounding yellow colour. *That* is your blind spot.



Today's Gospel reading draws attention to our blind spots. As you stand with the crowd watching and listening to what Jesus does and says, what are the things people don't see? What do people fail to understand? What do they miss?

And why do you think that is?

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE ~ LUKE 23:32-38

Two men, who were criminals, were also led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

Pause your playback device and take a few quiet moments to let the Word of God sink in. Let the Spirit draw your attention to certain words, images, thoughts, and feelings.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

~ KNOW ~

“God, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

Pause your playback device and try one of the following exercises today or sometime in the next week.

(You can give some or all of the others a try in the days to come if you have time and interest.)

1. Pray the closing prayer (below) every day this week as a way to become aware of where you direct your gaze, and to focus your attention on Jesus, so that you might know God’s love more deeply and fully.
2. Reflect on these two questions:
 - Is there a time you didn’t fully understand what you were doing and it turned out well?
 - Have you ever had an experience where you didn’t fully understand what you were doing – and it turned out poorly?

Write those stories down, or tell them to a friend or family member.

3. Take a few moments with your family or a friend to discuss the statement, “If I could spend one day with Jesus this Lent, I’d be curious to know more about _____.”
4. Imagine you’re talking with someone who has upset or angered or saddened you. If you think, “Maybe they don’t know...,” instead of “How could they have...!?” what possibilities open up?

Or imagine yourself saying, “I don’t know. I need help,” and, “I was wrong. I’m sorry.” Does the Holy Spirit nudge you in any way?

Consider following through on what emerges—even if you don’t fully know what you’re doing.



SONG FOR THE DAY ~ *What Kind of Love Is This?*

What kind of love is this—
That gave itself for me?
I am the guilty one
Yet I go free.
What kind of love is this—
A love I've never known?
I didn't even know His name.
What kind of love is this?

What kind of man is this
Who died in agony?
He who had done no wrong
Was crucified for me!
What kind of man is this
Who laid aside His throne
That I might know the love of God?
What kind of man is this?

By faith I have been saved;
It is the gift of God.
He destined me to be His own
Such is His love.
No eye has ever seen,
No ear has ever heard,
Nor has the heart of men conceived
What kind of love is this.

—Steve Bell

CLOSING PRAYER *(based on Psalm 119:18, Ephesians 1:18, Matthew 5:8)*

**Merciful God,
You have brought us to this hour by our several ways.
Unfaithful as we have been, You have nevertheless kept faith with us.
Deliver us from the cowardice that dares not face new truth,
the laziness that is content with half truth,
the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth.
Open my mind and let me discover the wonders of your Love.
Enlighten my heart, that I may know the hope,
and grasp the gloriously holy riches in this way of life,
to which you have called me.
Open my eyes, that I might see you and walk ever more
in the newness that is the Way, Truth, and Life.
Amen.**

BLESSING ~ *To Him Who is Able (Jude 24-25)*

To him who is able to keep you from falling
and to present you before his glorious presence
without fault, and with great joy,

To the only God, our Savior
be glory, majesty, power and authority
through Jesus Christ, our Lord
before all ages, now and forevermore

Amen, Amen.

—*Brian Moss*



Practice Resurrection is the result of a partnership between Living Hope Christian Reformed Church (livinghopecrc.ca) and Highland Community Church (www.highlandcommunitychurch.ca).

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GOD, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY

WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? I AM THIRSTY. IT IS FINISHED. GO, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.



ARE DOING. TRUST ME, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE. HERE IS YOUR SON. HERE

MY GOD, MY GOD,

KNOW

IS YOUR MOTHER.