

*“ They shall not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain, says the Lord” Isaiah*

Dearly Beloved Friends,

As we enter Holy Week together I remind myself and you of our destination, which is after all not a place or location but a transformed space in God’s time and realm.

I have taken great comfort in the prophecy of Isaiah this Lent. It has helped me to gather up the fragments of my life and hold them in an emptier vessel and offer them to God. It has framed my prayer to the Holy Spirit that I may be both instrument of kingdom change and appreciator of all that God has created. All means all. And Holy Week “all” can seem like too much. Could we not be more selective? Could we not use our defense mechanisms especially of denial? The Holy Week answer is No we ought not, with God’s help.

Imagine the resurrection life toward which we journey. Imagine the transformation of relationships and power structures to allow no hurt or destruction on God’s holy mountain. NO hurt or destruction!

I believe that God has offered us ways of entering this terrifying space. I believe that one of the things which abounds is sacramental gesture. It, once realized, becomes that which empowers and unites us by and to God’s grace. Sacramental gestures transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, the mundane into the holy, sorrow into joy.

This Holy Week I invite you to reconsider Mary’s anointing of Jesus’ feet with precious nard. I invite you to remember foot washing, breaking bread, sharing a meal, stripping the altar, praying the stations of the cross, looking into the eyes of a stranger, as the simplest of ways which transport us to the holiest of holies. Each of us is capable of these gestures, each of us is ready for these gestures. The question is are we ready for the transformative effect?

As we return to dust may we be “blown away” by the Holy Spirit’s power. May the God who offers us Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, Easter us! And may we in turn Easter others in our gestures and our prayers. Holy Gestures this Holy Week!

Holy Week blessings to you,

Martha