



day four: restoration

Isaiah 6:6-7

"Your guilt is taken away and your sins atoned for."

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OPENING PRAYER (Adapted from Ambrose of Milan)

Heavenly Father,
we need to confess the prophet Isaiah's confession,
which he makes before declaring the word of the Lord:

**"Woe to me! I am ruined!
For I am a man of unclean lips,
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have seen the King,
the Lord Almighty!"**

If Isaiah said, "Woe to me,"
when he looked upon you, Lord,
what do we say of ourselves?
How can we speak of things we fear?

**We wish the seraphim would bring a burning coal
from the altar of God,
and with that fire purge our unclean lips.**

But you, O Lord, in your grace have revealed the mystery
and came to us in the flesh.

**You—not by deputy, not by any messenger, but you
yourself—cleanse our conscience from our secret
sins.**

Then we, once unclean, now by your mercy have made
us clean through faith.

**We praise you with the harp of your faithfulness,
O my God;
We sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.
When we sing praise to you our lips will shout for joy,
along with my soul, which you have redeemed.
(Psalm 71:22 & 23)**

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

*You are high above
Reigning Strong
Seated in glory
The throne is yours alone
Your presence fills this place
Your mercy overflows
Help us see you now
Greater than we've ever known*

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 6:6–7

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

To be restored by God is a marvel too great for us to fully comprehend.

We are going to enter into Scripture tonight in a different way—through a practice called *Lectio Divinia*.

This is a way of reading that abandons the attempt to take control of the text as if it were helpless without our help. It's a way of reading that refuses to be reduced to just reading but intends the living out of the text, listening, encountering, and responding to the Living Jesus who is the Living Word.

The Scripture passage will be read four times. And each time we listen a little differently. There are four movements of Lectio Divina:

Lectio

Meditatio

Oratio

Contemplatio

But rather than think of them as a sequence or series that you do in an order, think of them as parts in a symphony. They are all playing together and happening at the same time, but we can hone in and focus in on one part at time for a deeper appreciation during multiple readings.

First is – Lectio – Reading. The text will be read out loud. Listen with the inner part of you. Listen for a word or phrase that causes your spirit to leap. Listen to how the Living Word is addressing you.

The second movement – Meditatio – shifts us to listen a bit differently. As we take this text into ourselves, we find the text is taking us into itself. The text is a witness to God revealing himself to us and revealing us to ourselves.

Listen for the way in which the word or phrase that jumped out connects with your life.

Ask, "What in my life right now needs to hear this word?" Ask yourself, "Where am I in this scene? What do I hear or experience as I imagine myself in this story and hear these words addressed specifically to me?"

Find yourself in HIS STORY.

The third movement – Oratio –is when the text becomes our prayer. We engage in response to God and what He is saying to us.

Is there an invitation for me to respond to God in some way?

What is my response based on what I have encountered?

And then there is – Contemplatio – as we rest in the Word of God we let it sink into our muscles and bones, we let it penetrate our lungs and heart and the blood pumping through our veins. We let it seep into our DNA as we invite the Living God to do His transformative work in us.

We rest in the Word of God so we can embody it on an every day normal Tuesday.

And as we rest in the word of God, we are invited to release and return to a place of rest in God Himself.

LECTIO DIVINA: Luke 7:36–50

Then one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. And a woman in the town who was a sinner found out that Jesus was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume and stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears. She wiped his feet with her hair, kissing them and anointing them with the perfume. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "This man, if he were a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—she's a sinner!"

Jesus replied to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

He said, "Say it, teacher."

"A creditor had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Since they could not pay it back, he graciously forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one he forgave more."

"You have judged correctly," he told him. Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she, with her tears, has washed my feet and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. You didn't anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?"

And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

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(Space 3)

(Space 4)

POEM: My Thankful Heart with Glorifying Tongue
Anne Bradstreet (1612–1672)

My thankful heart with glorying tongue
Will celebrate your name,
Who has restored, redeemed, re-cured
From sickness, death, and pain.

I cried; you seemed to take some pause,
I sought more earnestly.
And in due time you supported me,
And sent me help from high.

Lord, while my fleeting time still lasts,
Your goodness let me tell.
And new experience I have gained,
My future doubts repel.

A humble, faithful life, O Lord,
Forever let me walk;
Let my obedience testify,
My praise lies not in talk.

Accept, O Lord, my simple gift,
For more I cannot give;
What you bestow I will restore,
For of your alms I live.

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
You are holy, holy
The whole earth is full of,
Full of Your glory*

*You are high above
Reigning Strong
Seated in glory
The throne is yours alone
Your presence fills this place
Your mercy overflows
Help us see you now
Greater than we've ever known*

*You are holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Lord, You are Worthy
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CLOSING PRAYER: Romans 5:8, Colossians 1:13–14,
Romans 5:1, Revelation 5:9–13

God demonstrates his own love for us in this;
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**For he has rescued us from the
dominion of darkness,
And brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
We have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
To receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
And honor and glory and blessing!

**You, Lord Jesus, are worthy to take the scroll
And to open its seals,**

For you were slaughtered
And by your blood you ransomed for God
Saints from every tribe and language
And people and nation;
You have made them to be a kingdom
And priests serving our God,
And they will reign on earth.

**To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
Be blessing and honor and glory and might
Forever and ever! Amen!**

