

Reflection Tuesday Lent 5 – 2021

We are not being asked to compare the bronze serpent with Jesus on the cross, nor enter into a theological reflection on their meaning. The parallel between the two readings is obedience and belief. The Israelites in the desert were healed because of their obedience to God's request and their belief that they would be healed by looking at the fiery serpent. Jesus on the cross is the paradigm of obedience as Jesus tells us himself and, when we look at the cross, we believe that Jesus saved us through his death and resurrection because of his great love for us. See in Jesus on the cross the Christ of the Beatitudes. (**Macrina Wiederkehr**)

1. **O Christ of the Poor in Spirit**, they have no light of their own, no wealth of their own, yet because of your glory shining within them they will be known in the kingdom of God.
O Christ of the Poor in Spirit, create in my crowded heart a space for God.
2. **O Christ of those who Mourn**, a holy sorrow washes my soul as the ache of others' pain threads its way through my being. Sharing their sorrow without trying to take it away brings healing and comfort.
O Christ of those who mourn, create in me a new courage to sit beside the sorrowing.
3. **O Christ of the Lowly Ones**: Possessing no power save a truth deep within, God's 'little ones' linger long over the truth. They receive rather than take.
O Christ of the Lowly Ones create in me a gentle, open spirit.
4. **O Christ of those who hunger for justice**: What is this gnawing in the centre of their being? Hunger-pains, refusing to be satisfied with anything less than God. In the deep caverns of their souls lives a blazing zeal that burns for truth.
O Christ, Sun of Justice, burn your way into my soul with the terrible gift of this same burning zeal.
5. **O Christ of the Merciful**: Who are these people wearing the robes of your mercy? Have you returned again in the person of their flesh? Your love shines out in them like a full moon.
O Christ of the Merciful, dress me in the bright robes of your mercy.
6. **O Christ of the Pure of Heart**: Who are these fearless ones who have opened the doors of their hearts? In the centre of my being dwells a heart that is a stranger to division. Forever it whispers, I am the soul of you. Believe in Me!
O Christ of the Pure of Heart, create in me deep faith in my undivided heart.
7. **O Christ of the Peacemakers**: Who are these dreaming dreams, carrying torches, building bridges? They walk in peace where the wild things are. They pitch their tents in fields of violence—and all because they are at peace within themselves.
O Christ of the Peacemakers, create in me a peaceful heart that cannot stay at home.
8. **O Christ of the Persecuted**, twisted, broken, bent upon a cross – they proclaimed all the truth they knew. They died of truth and the Kingdom of Heaven became theirs.
O Christ of the Persecuted, create in me a willingness to die for truth.

