

Lenten Devotional April 3, 2021

Scripture

Job 19:21-27a

21 Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! 22 Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? 23 "O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! 24 O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever! 25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; 26 and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, 27 whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Devotional

The Rev. Greg Steible '14

Silence. Ear-shattering silence. Guttural and fierce silence. Silence blasting forth from the deep.

Yesterday we witnessed Christ on the cross cry out one last time. And today, what do we have? The void encroaching wordlessly on our hearts. Tomorrow will come, but we aren't there yet. Today we sit in the deafening silence.

When Job is confronted with this silence, he stands firm. In the heartbreaking reality in which he finds himself, when all is lost and Job is being blamed by his friends, and when Job even begins to believe God is being unjust and malicious, he proclaims a greater truth. He boldly proclaims, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth." He knows the truth of God's grace and believes, deep in his innermost being, that there is hope.

As we sit in the silence of this Holy Saturday, we know the truth. We know what the morning brings. We know the oppressive silence will come to an end. But in the middle of it, it's easy to forget. And so we raise our voice in unison with Job and declare that we know *our* Redeemer lives and that at the last our Christ will stand upon the earth.

Prayer

O God, we are eager for tomorrow, and yet you call us here. Be with us in the darkness, as we know our Redeemer lives. Give us hope even on those darkest days, until that morning rises. Through Christ, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.