

Midweek Lent (February 21) – Week 1

Questions for reflection, from reading pages 1-46 in

“God For Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter”

(Greg Pennoyer & Gregory Wolfe, editors; Massachusetts: Paraclete Press, 2015)

1. There are at least a couple original meanings of the word, “Lent” (p.2). Which one do you prefer, and why?
2. What is a significant memory of the season of Lent from your childhood/youth?
3. What does the season of Lent mean to you, today? What is its primary purpose?
4. Of all the Feast Days mentioned and described in this week’s reading (Clean Monday, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, First Sunday of Lent), which one stands out for you? Why?
5. What surprised you most from the readings this week? What interpretation challenged you?
6. The writers this week describe a way of relating to evil and ultimate good in the world (p.27, 35-37, 39) that keeps us from over-identifying with both. What, then, is the goal of all Lenten discipline?
7. What phrase, scripture, prayer or sentence inspired you the most – from this first week of readings? What will you do?

**Please note that the lectionary readings in the book do not correspond with those of the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) we follow in our tradition. However, in general terms, the scriptural themes and stories do relate. For example, on page 35, Richard Neuhaus refers to the temptation of Jesus from Matthew 4:1-11; this year (Year B, RCL) on the First Sunday in Lent, the Gospel story is from Mark 1:9-15 which also includes the temptation of Jesus. Please refer to p.26-31 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress, 2006) for a complete listing of Sunday readings in Lent, and p.1134-1135 for Year B daily readings.*