

Midweek Lent (March 14) — Week 4

Questions for reflection, from reading pages 95-119 in

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

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

1. What is, according to the writer, the “greatest lesson” of the Lenten observance? (p.102). Why?
2. What does gardening – and its images of “decay”, “humus”, “compost” – teach us about sin, hope and new life?
3. “Laetare” Sunday points to the purpose of the Lenten fast. Which traditional title for the Fourth Sunday in Lent (p.107-108) do you prefer, and why?
 - a. Mothering Sunday
 - b. Laetare (Joy) Sunday
 - c. Refreshment Sunday
4. The notion of sacrifice has challenged many contemporary Christians who, in the western world, live comfortable lives.
 - a. The writer suggests we do not know what sacrifice really is (p.114-116). Do you? If sacrifice is for the sake of the other, what have you sacrificed for another person or for the greater good? Is there someone or some cause for which you would die?
 - b. One important outcome of the Reformation was to restore the ‘offering’ as a thankful response of the congregation to God’s gift in the Holy Communion liturgy.¹ How can your personal stewardship reflect a positive sacrifice / response of thanksgiving to God?

¹“Martin Luther considered the Eucharist to be God’s gift to the people — not an offering from the people to God. ‘All the Reformers rejected the Roman Offertory and its idea of a sin offering by the priest instead of a thank offering by the people.’ The Reformation restored the practice of the people offering gifts during mass.” (see www.whyliturgya.ca, and click on “Meal”)