

LISTENING ALONGSIDE



ECHOING CHRIST

Lenten Devotions 2017

**Monday of Holy Week,
April 10, 2017**

Longing, Lenten
Brett Foster (1973–2015)

The walk back, more loss. When I open the door
it's over, so I set to piddling: tidy
end tables, check the mail, draw a bath.
The restless energy finally settles
as I pass the mirror. I peer into it.
My nose touches glass. Not much left,
already effaced, not even a cross
to speak of. A smudge. A few black soot stains
like pin points on the forehead. The rest
of the blessed ash has vanished to a grey
amorphousness, to symbolize... not much.
Except a wish for those hallowed moments
to be followed by sustaining confidence.
Except spirit, which means to shun its listless
weight for yearning, awkward if not more earnest
prayer and fasting in the clear face of dust.

Taken from Jay Hopley and Kimberly Johnson, editors, *Before the Door of God; An Anthology of Devotional Poetry* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013), 425pp.

Prayer

Loving God,

I am just beginning to realize how much you love me.

Your son, Jesus was humble and obedient.

He fulfilled your will for him by becoming human and suffering with us.

I ask you for the desire to become more humble
so that my own life might also bear witness to you.

I want to use the small sufferings I have in this world
to give you glory.

Please, Lord, guide my mind with your truth.

Strengthen my life by the example of Jesus.

Help me to be with Jesus in this week
as he demonstrates again his total love for me.

He died so that I would no longer
be separated from you.

Help me to feel how close you are
and to live in union with you.

—From *Praying Lent: An Online Resource of Creighton University*

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.