

## LISTENING ALONGSIDE



## ECHOING CHRIST

### **Lenten Devotions 2017**

**Saturday,  
April 1, 2017**

#### Having Confessed

Having confessed he feels  
That he should go down on his knees and pray  
For forgiveness for his pride, for having  
Dared to view his soul from the outside.  
Lie at the heart of the emotion, time  
Has its own work to do. We must not anticipate  
Or awaken for a moment. God cannot catch us  
Unless we stay in the unconscious room  
Of our hearts. We must be nothing,  
Nothing that God may make us something.  
We must not touch the immortal material  
We must not daydream to-morrow's judgement—  
God must be allowed to surprise us.  
We have sinned, sinned like Lucifer  
By this anticipation. Let us lie down again  
Deep in anonymous humility and God  
May find us worthy material for His hand.  
— Patrick Kavanagh,  
From *Collected Poems*

## Prayer

Loving and merciful God,  
I am so aware of my sins and weaknesses.  
But as painfully aware of my faults as I am,  
Let me also remember your tender love,  
your gentle and limitless forgiveness.  
I come before you filled with pain and guilt  
but look into your eyes and see the forgiving love  
I so long for in my life.  
Help me to forgive the same way.  
Teach me to love as you love.

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

## Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

## 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you