



# Bringing Home the Word

*Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)*  
March 30, 2025

## Rejoice!

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**T**oday is Laetare Sunday, the Lenten Sunday to rejoice. We are encouraged to rejoice, not because Lent is half over, but because something extraordinary has occurred. All three readings for today applaud some wondrous and joyous occasion.

The reading from Joshua notes the end of the Israelites' grueling Egyptian and wilderness experience. They settled in Canaan and now celebrate the anniversary of their deliverance by

## Sunday Readings

**Joshua 5:9a, 10–12**

On the day after the Passover [the Israelites] ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain.

**2 Corinthians 5:17–21**

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

**Luke 15:1–3, 11–32**

[Jesus said,] "Now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

offering to God in gratitude the fruits of their own harvest. The people who once were landless have now been made anew. This is surely a reason to rejoice.

Paul's words to the Corinthians were reason for great rejoicing. He assured them that, because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, their sinfulness was not held against them. Instead, they were now reconciled with God. They were a new creation. This, too, is reason to rejoice.

Jesus' story about the merciful father touches every life. The young son turned away from his home and his family, yet it was the father's actions that brought about the reconciliation. The story did not explicitly say that he simply forgave his son. More than that, it says that he was filled with deep compassion for him—a compassion that restored the bond between them. This compassion brought the son who was dead back to life. There is no greater reason for rejoicing.

God has brought us into a new land, has made each of us a new creation, has brought us back to the embrace of our Father. And so, we rejoice. †



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merciful father touches  
every life.***

## A Word from Pope Francis

There was a pop theatre production...about the Prodigal Son.... [The son writes a letter:] "Father, I have repented, I want to come back home.... If you want to welcome me, please put a white handkerchief in the window."... And when he was near home...what did he see? Not one handkerchief: it was full of white handkerchiefs, the windows, everywhere!

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 27, 2022



REFLECTION  
QUESTIONS  
**QUESTIONS**  
REFLECTION

- How can I help heal a broken relationship?
- How do I forgive others as I am forgiven?



# Things Are Not Always As They Seem

Paige Byrne Shortal

I made a collage inspired by a quote from William Morris: “Have nothing in your homes that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.” I took pictures of a couple dozen ordinary household objects, but from different angles than we usually see them. There is a close-up of a glass doorknob, the back of a rocker made of lovely wood, the wicker top of a hamper, one patch on a quilt. It turned out pretty nice and hangs in our living room. A favorite game of my grandchildren is to ask guests to find those objects in the house. Children are better than adults at this game. They see with their fresh eyes what we don’t expect to see with our mature eyes.

Sometimes things are not as they seem. There’s the story of a man who was riding on the subway in New York City when another man got on with his three children. The kids were just wild—running around the car, jumping on the seats, disturbing the other passengers. The first man was getting more and more irritated and finally approached the father and

asked, “Don’t you see how your children are behaving? They’re bothering everybody. Aren’t you going to do something?” The father of the kids looked up, obviously just noticing what was going on. He apologized and said, “I’m so sorry. We just came from the funeral home where we’re making arrangements.

My wife died yesterday. I guess the kids are just confused by it all.” Then he called his kids over, and they sat down quietly. The first man felt awful, and all his irritation melted away, to be replaced by concern. “I’m so sorry for your loss,” he said. “Is there anything I can do?”

We often find ourselves irritated by the behavior of others. Try this exercise the next time someone’s behavior irritates you: list five reasons why that person may have behaved that way. And then say a quick prayer for him or her and for anyone you may have irritated that day.

**We often find ourselves irritated by the behavior of others.**

From *Live Lent at Home: Daily Prayers and Activities for Families* by Paige Byrne Shortal (818691). Available from Liguori Publications. To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Lent Day by Day: A Call to Love and Forgiveness” by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI  
Life can be grossly unfair. It’s been suggested that violence can come from someone not knowing what to do with his or her suffering. This can result in the likes of domestic abuse, racism, and contempt for the poor. Understanding that our abuser may be in deep agony and imagining how (ideally) to respond as Christians is helpful, but alone it doesn’t provide the power to forgive. We require strength that’s beyond us. We pray for a time when, with God’s help, we bridge that chasm.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



Lord Jesus, so that we may love those who love us and those we find difficult to love, we pray—Lord, let us be like you. Amen.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 31—April 5

**Monday**, Lenten Weekday: Is 65:17–21 / Jn 4:43–54

**Tuesday**, Lenten Weekday: Ez 47:1–9, 12 / Jn 5:1–16

**Wednesday**, Lenten Weekday: Is 49:8–15 / Jn 5:17–30

**Thursday**, Lenten Weekday: Ex 32:7–14 / Jn 5:31–47

**Friday**, Lenten Weekday: Wis 2:1a, 12–22 / Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

**Saturday**, Lenten Weekday: Jer 11:18–20 / Jn 7:40–53



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