

Holy Monday

Prayer:

Bless me Lord in this Holy Week and give me the grace to know your loving presence more intimately. O Lord, this holy season of Lent (Easter Prep) passed quickly. I entered into it with fear, but also with great expectations. I hoped for a great breakthrough, a powerful conversion, a real change of heart; I wanted Easter to be a day so full of light that not even a trace of darkness would be left in my soul. I pray that this Holy Week, in which you invite me to enter more fully into the mystery of your Passion, will bring me a greater desire to follow you on the way that you create for me and to accept the cross that you give to me. Be with me tomorrow and in the days to come and let me experience your gentle presence. Amen.

Henri Nouwen, *A Cry for Mercy*

Reading:

Jesus comes near and he beholds the city
And looks on us with tears in his eyes,
And wells of mercy, streams of love and pity
Flow from the fountain whence all things arise.
He loved us into life and longs to gather
And meet with his beloved face to face.
How often has he called, a careful mother,
And wept for our refusals of his grace,
Wept for a world that, weary with its weeping,
Benumbed and stumbling, turns the other way;
Fatigued compassion is already sleeping
While her worst nightmares stalk the light of day.
But we might waken yet, and face those fears,
If we could see ourselves through Jesus' tears.

Malcolm Guite, *Jesus Weeps from Word in the Wilderness*