

And so it begins: the Week we call Holy...

And so it has begun, Lord:
the Week we call Holy...

I've read how theologians debate
whether time itself, or any unit of time,
can actually be or become holy -
but I'll leave that to the scholars, Lord,
and simply wonder about *my* being holy,
my growing in holiness in the week ahead...

*(Why am I afraid of that word: holy? Why am I put
off by it? Why am I so easily convinced that holiness
is for others but not for me? I want to be strong,
healthy, wise, just, honest, fair, loving, prayerful,
faithful, kind, forgiving and compassionate - why
do I shy away from wanting to be holy? Could be,
Lord, that I just don't get what it means to be holy.
So, especially in the week ahead, deepen my
understanding and my desire to be holy...)*

One thing I know for certain, Lord:
I could be a whole lot holier than I am right now!
But just *how* holy do I want to be?

- I want to be holy enough
to stand before you
without shame or embarrassment...
- I want to be holy enough
to know that I've helped the poor
- and generously so...
- I want to be holy enough
to know that my intentions and desires,
my dreams and schemes,
are just, pure and honest...
- I want to be holy enough
to love you with a good heart,
cleansed of selfishness and pride...
- I want to be holy enough
to recognize my *lack* of holiness
and to ask the help of your grace
whenever and wherever I need it...

- I want to be holy enough
to be known as an honest person,
one who is just and fair...
Just five days left* in Lent, Lord:
five more chances to become a little more *holy*,
in this season of praying, fasting
and serving the needs of others...

I have five days to be more faithful to prayer,
in the morning, at night or whenever you and I
can sit down and just have a chat, one-on-one
- just the two of us, Lord...

I have five days to deny myself
some taste or sip, some pleasure or toy
and to discover and nourish the inner hunger
that self-denial provides me...

I have five days to give to the poor
and learn to share with those whose needs
are so much greater than my own...

Five days left in Lent, Lord,
and then *three* days of prayer so holy
they are but *one-day-in-three*: the *Triduum*,
Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter,
three days inviting me to enter, to participate
in the holiest of all mysteries,
the mystery of Jesus and to remember
with the whole Church how Jesus suffered, died,
was buried and rose
- that we might have life and have it to the full...

Three days that promise more
than I could ever hope to promise in return...

So, I ask you, Lord, to make me at least
a *little* more holy in this Holy Week.
Help me make time to pray with the church
on Holy Thursday, on Good Friday
at the Easter Vigil or on Easter morning...

I offer you this week, Lord:
make me *holy*, day by day... Amen.

**Lent ends at sundown on Thursday of Holy Week
when the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**
begins the Triduum at 7:30 p.m.. A Good Friday
Children's Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. and
the Good Friday Liturgy will be at 7:30 p.m. The
Easter Vigil will begin at 8:30 p.m. on Holy
Saturday and Easter Sunday Masses will be at
7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.*