

Friends of the Center

Roots and Horizons: Living Lent from the Cross with the Hope of Resurrection

Lent presents itself as a season of theological depth and spiritual discernment, a threshold that invites us to look both backward and forward: toward our **roots** and toward our **horizons**. This is not merely an introspective exercise, but a formative journey in which Christian faith is reaffirmed within the always-present fertile tension between the cross and the resurrection.

The roots of our faith are deeply grounded in the mystery of God’s merciful love, fully revealed in the self-giving of Jesus Christ. The cross is neither an accident nor a parenthesis in the history of salvation; it is the place where God radically identifies with human suffering and where death is confronted from within. To live Lent, therefore, is to learn how to dwell in the cross, not as a symbol of defeat, but as a space of transformation, conviction, and trust. It is there that a hope is revealed, one that does not evade pain, but passes through it.

Yet the cross is not the final word. Christian faith is, at its core, paschal. The resurrection opens new horizons that reshape how we live the present. As the apostolic tradition affirms, it is not enough to confess that Christ has risen; we must discern what that resurrection means for the concrete life of believing communities, for you and me. Christian hope is neither abstract nor postponed exclusively to the future; it is a living hope that breaks into the here and now, renewing personal, communal, and ecclesial life.

From this perspective, Lent becomes a pedagogical season of **metanoia**, a profound reorientation of thought, practice, and relationships. Rooted in the inheritance we have received, an inheritance that is incorruptible and not subject to the erosion of worldly logics, we are called to live in ways that are consistent with the Kingdom that has already been inaugurated. This inheritance is not safeguarded through withdrawal, but through an active faith expressed in justice, peace, and shared hope.

Thus, between roots and horizons, Lent forms us as a people who walk with the cross without absolutizing it, and who hope for resurrection without trivializing suffering. To live in the cross with the hope of resurrection is to embrace the conviction that God is still at work, that there is no “closed ending” for those who trust in divine mercy, and that every step along this Lenten journey prepares us for a fuller, more faithful life, one more deeply committed to the Gospel.¹

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¹ Adaptation from Sermon I preached in April 2025 titled: The Victory Walk of Resurrection from 1 Peter 1:3-5

