

11th April 2021 – Low Sunday

LOW

**“O mighty Ceasar! dost thou lie so low?
Art all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,
Shrunk to this little measure. Fare thee well!”**

William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

The conspirators have murdered Caesar. After the assassination, Mark Anthony appears, turns to the fallen Caesar and addresses him with the words above: “O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?” It is, it appears, a moment of regret that it has come to this. But more than that, it is an identification of the horror this death has created for them all. For, indeed, they are *all* brought low by what has happened.

Today is Low Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter. It’s sometimes known as “Thomas Sunday”, recalling the story of “Doubting Thomas”, a disciple who had been brought low by all that had happened. He had said his, “Fare thee well!” to his Lord – and forever, it seemed. “Dost thou lie so low?” could have been the cry of anguish *he* addressed to his crucified Christ, away on his own, trying to come to terms with things. Remembering the death, and the tomb, and the mourning, any talk of Easter glory and triumph were wasted on this man.

But in that time of utter lowness, and all the doubts, fear, scepticism and devastation that went with it, the Risen Christ met with Thomas. In our times of lowness, might we believe that the same is possible?

*Why do I feel like Thomas now that Easter Day is past?
I thought the joy of Eastertide was really meant to last,
And offer me a pilgrimage of faith, and love, and praise.
Why do I feel like Thomas now, on these, my lowest days?*

*The reason I’m like Thomas is because there’s part of me
That’s doubting still, and sceptical, and finds it hard to be
Accepting without questioning, and always strong and true.
The reason I’m like Thomas is because I’m human too.*

*But Christ accepted Thomas! And this Christ has come again
To promise me that Easter is as much for now as then.
His presence is still meaningful; His call can’t be ignored.
So I can say with Thomas: “You’re my Christ, and you’re my Lord!”*

A prayer for today

Lord, meet me in my lowness, for it’s there that I’ll need you most. Amen

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