

# Lent Devotion for Saturday, April 8

## Lamentation 3:1-9; 19-24

### NEW TOMORROW MORNING

*“... great is your faithfulness.”*

Last year Akum and I took it upon ourselves to experiment growing an avocado plant. We used toothpicks to suspend the pit of an avocado in a mason jar of water, like elementary students would do for their school science project. Week after week, the avocado pit sat there in silence. After a couple of months of neglect, it rejected the hopeful culinary aspirations of guacamole and cracked down the middle. No sprouting of green growth. No tendrils of roots seeking sustenance. Just a dried and cracked avocado pit sitting in an increasingly dirty mason jar of water.

Our passage today comes to us in the silence of Holy Saturday, giving voice to dashed hopes and cracked dreams. The dank smell of tragedy and wastefulness hangs over this pallid day and drives all thoughts of blossoming flowers and new life out of our minds. In our passage, the poet of Lamentations shifts voices, and on Holy Saturday it is as if Jesus himself is speaking these words from the silence of the tomb. They are the pained words of a broken man, coming up from the pit of death and despair.

We gave up on that avocado pit after some time. We saw a failed experiment that needed to be tossed out, but Akum had hope for what still might come. After many months of nothing, the appearance of roots brought a glimmer of hope. But then it appeared that roots were all that would come.

However, the pit that seemed to be a failure was not done. Six months after it was suspended in a glass, a tiny shoot began to thrust its way from the cracked pit. Life now springs from what appeared to be failure. On Holy Saturday, we know that in the wake of Good Friday, we can read Lamentations 3 as “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new tomorrow morning.”

*Father, when I am cracked and seem to  
be beyond hope, please help me  
remember that your love never ceases.*