



Dear friends,

Henry David Thoreau got it right, in Walden, when he wrote, "What are we but a mass of thawing clay?" Thoroughly Biblical and apt for Lent as we recall that we are reconstituted dust and ash. God raised the dust of the earth and formed us into living beings. God honored us with control of all creation, and then all manner of confusion set in.

We are still deceived by the devil, trying to figure out issues of justice, and fairness. Trying to articulate what it looks like when all share in the prosperity of society, which takes ALL OF US to bring into existence, yet sadly some remain in debilitating poverty. Made "ruler upon earth over all things visible" and "companion to the angels" (Byzantine vespers) but deceived by the serpent with food (the apple) and the subtle promise of wisdom (you will think and be like God). The CLAY struggles to thaw, to shape, to reveal the yearning heart of God with tears in our eyes.

Lent has an organizing principle; with scripture and prayer, fasting and mercy; we can remember what God made us to be, and our prayer echoes vespers again: "But in compassion, O Savior, call me back [to Your life] again!" So revisit the ancient practices of personal formation, make a Holy Lent, and rise with Christ into the life of God!!!

I remain,
Your friend and Rector,
(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore



