



The Episcopal Community

Lent 2026



If you are like me, so many of the objects in your home have a special meaning or remembrance. “That was my mom’s favorite serving dish,” or “I received that as a gift from my best friend’s mother when I got married, and I love using it.” What if the objects in our homes could tell a story about where they came from or about their role in our lives, in our memories? What if *they* could tell the story of our lives with them from their perspective?

Recently at the Seminary of the Southwest, the assistant professor of preaching, Dominique Robinson, addressed a group of local clergy who have received field-education students from the seminary. Professor Robinson was speaking about preaching during Lent and especially Holy Week. I was glad I was invited to attend. I was fascinated by her way of opening up the clergy’s eyes anew about preaching during this holy season!

Professor Robinson offered us a different look at Lent, seeing it – especially Holy Week – from the viewpoint of objects named in each day’s Gospel lesson and those objects’ roles in the stories.

Lent 1: Jesus being led into the wilderness – stones, mountain, and bread.

Lent 2: Nicodemus – the world and water.

Lent 3: The Samaritan woman – water and the well.

Lent 4: Healing of the blind man – mud.

Lent 5: Raising of Lazarus – tomb, cave, and cloth wrappings.

Then we come to Holy Week! The images there are manifold: donkey, palms, crown of thorns, cross, nails, gall, sponge, tomb, stone, and so much more.

What if we started to think and pray about the objects surrounding our journey through Lent and Holy Week as if they had life? (In one case, it did – the donkey!) I have to admit that I never thought about the story from this perspective:

Did the stones band together to offer warmth to Jesus in the wilderness?

In the stories of Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman, did the water look at the unfolding scenes and try to bring comfort or healing?

What did the donkey think as Jesus rode into Jerusalem being cheered by the crowd? Did the palms rejoice at being part of a parade?

If the nails could talk, what would they have thought about piercing the flesh of Jesus? Did they want to recoil? Did they weep?

We could go on and on about the objects involved in Lent and Holy Week. As we ponder them, I am wondering what it would be like to look at the objects in our own homes and reflect on their meaning or importance to us during this season. What stories would they tell about our lives? You might choose to journal or talk about the objects around you with family or friends.

I invite you, dear sisters in Christ, to a blessed and Holy Lent. Let us come together at Easter, rejoicing at the empty tomb – and thinking about the story from the tomb's perspective.

+Diane Jardine Bruce