



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“Transformative Love of the Lord”

The woman caught in adultery is one great story that we can learn from, especially in the Season of Lent. Scribes and Pharisees were all ready to stone this woman. Before doing so, they brought her to Jesus to test and find a way to trap the Lord. If they succeed, not only the woman would be stoned but him as well. If Jesus declares the woman innocent, he will be contradicting the law of Moses and thus liable to judgment and punishment. If he abides by the law of Moses to stone her to death, then Jesus would be contradicting His teaching about forgiveness and mercy. However, their ill intent failed because Jesus knew all along. Rather, he was the one who put the Scribes and Pharisees in a dilemma when he made a thought-provoking statement, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw the stone at her.”

Oftentimes, or maybe many times, we become like the Scribes and Pharisees who easily find the faults of others. We look down on others, for we think of ourselves as self-righteous people. Just try to imagine yourself holding your stone at that moment. With the words of Jesus, will that stone be thrown towards the woman or hold that stone instead for you to remind yourself of your faults? Or, one more thing, just lay the stone where you would be standing and leave the place and not be bothered at all?

As we are about to enter the holy days of the year, Holy Week, let us embrace Jesus’ compassion and mercy and realize the things that we need to change in our lives. Jesus always gives us an opportunity to transform our lives to live in grace. To be loving towards others rather than being hateful. To be forgiving rather than condemning. To be merciful rather than hardhearted. Jesus gives us all the time and moment to live with Him and in Him. Let us continue this path of the Lord to live with Him forever. Let us heed His call, and as the Psalmist would say, “if today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (Psalm 95)

May I also take this moment to thank everyone for your words of comfort and prayers for our loss, our beloved mother, Barbara. Many of you have met her and shared time with her not only during Mass but also through fellowship outside of church events. My siblings and I are feeling the pain of the loss of a precious gift God has given us, a mother until the end of eternity. But with faith and hope, she will be at peace with our Loving Creator and may enjoy the eternal banquet of the Lord. Again, on behalf of my family, I am very grateful for everything. May God’s peace be upon us all.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual