Dear friends:

I hope that you and your family were able to find some silver linings in the unusual experience of Easter we are having this year. As someone who detests housework, I have found myself spring cleaning with far more enthusiasm than I can ever remember and, as I turn out drawers and cupboard which have been ignored for years, I am rediscovering hidden treasures. The three of us who are spending so much unaccustomed time together have laughed and reminisced over many pictures and much memorabilia. And I have been noticing the signs of spring much more vividly than usual. The huge, fat, robin which hopped on the fence this morning; the squirrel cleaning his whiskers on our deck – much to the disgust of the dog who is watching him through the door; the buds on the Arctic willow and the lilacs, the shoots of things in the garden which I am sure I planted but shall have to wait to see what they are: all these remind me that God’s world is alive and calling us to notice. This is a time to proclaim

Psalm 66:

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,
sing praise to the glory of his name;
proclaim his glorious praise.
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!"

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,
sing praise to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam.

He has changed the sea into dry land;
through the river they passed on foot;
therefore let us rejoice in him.
He rules by his might forever.

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare
what he has done for me.
Blessed be God who refused me not
my prayer or his kindness!

You may connect this to the Exodus Canticle which follows the third reading of the Easter Vigil Liturgy; in three days we went from Psalm 22: “My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?” to the explosive joy of the Easter Alleluia and Gloria.

This truly a time to join in this chorus of “My God is an Awesome God!”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smZwG-auxC8

A Prayer for this time of Isolation

If I could,
I would offer an invitation for you
to hold your sorrow close,
to really feel what you are feeling,
and not try to portray yourself as being strong or “together.”
If I could,
I would just simply listen
to everything you need and want to say
– spoken or unspoken –
without any commentary
without trying to fix everything
and just allow your soul to be filled with the doubts,
the rage, and the fear that you have about now,
and about the future.

So together we sing
and plead to our God;
to embrace those whom we miss so much,
and to be present to all who feel lost without them.

From I Will Live On: Liturgical Songs, Prayers and Reflections for the Journey of Grief and Loss
by David Haas

Offered on the GIA website

Watch Andrea Bocelli’s sublime Easter concert recorded in the Duomo Di Milan and enjoy such beautiful favourites as Panis Angelicus, and Ave Maria at:

https://aleteia.org/2020/04/13/watch-andrea-bocellis-sublime-easter-concert/

Until tomorrow,

Gillian