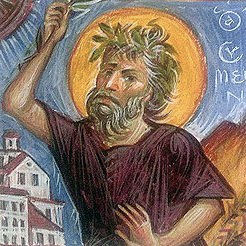
Contemplative Service for Wednesday

January 25, 2023



**First readings:**

*Ecclesiastes 10: 1*

Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench; so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

*1 Corinthians 1: 21*

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

**Music**: Prelude from Bach’s Cello Concerto, number 1. (I cannot find the name of the performer.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoZ0y4PO5BA&list=PL352CGbOeT0nNizlUz7K1gJ1o39__xP1G&index=2>

**Second reading**: from Bishop Kallistos Ware, an Eastern Orthodox Bishop, on Holy Fools:

In the First three centuries of our era, when Christianity was oppressed and persecuted, there was no special need for the fool’s testimony: all Christians were at that time considered fools by the dominant class in society. But when, as in the Christianized Empire of East Rome from the fourth century onwards or in the sacral autocracy of sixteenth century Moscow, people were in danger of confusing an earthly Kingdom with the Kingdom of God, then there was an urgent need of the fool’s mockery.

This is perfectly explained also in St Symeon’s (a Syrian holy fool) reply to his friend John when he was called by God to leave the desert and go and help people; he said to his friend John “I am going to mock the world.”

**Music:** Torroba’s Sonatina, No. 2, Andante, performed by David Russell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6PnUo5yAs4&list=PL352CGbOeT0nNizlUz7K1gJ1o39__xP1G&index=4>

**Time of Silent Contemplation**

What Jesus experiences in his consciousness, we are to experience in ours. We are to enter into his very heart, the center of his being. —*Beatrice Bruteau*

**Community Prayer**

Our God, Our Holiest of Fools, guide us through the ruptures in our logic, take us into your holy terrain beyond the crooked trails of our rationality. The world often sparkles with things that others tell us are silly or unimportant. Let us enter into the world of the sparkle with reverence and gratitude. Correspondingly, the world is too ready to dismiss or scorn what is simple, poor, or inarticulate. Liberate us into our stuttering, our simplicity, and our lack of skill. Help us to open our foolish hearts to your wiser foolishness. There, we will always find your kindness waiting to draw us in. Amen.

**Music**: “Milonga” composed and performed by Cardoso

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDXHmkS7D0E&list=PL352CGbOeT0nNizlUz7K1gJ1o39__xP1G&index=5>

*May you shrug of the judgments of the world and enter deeply into peace.*