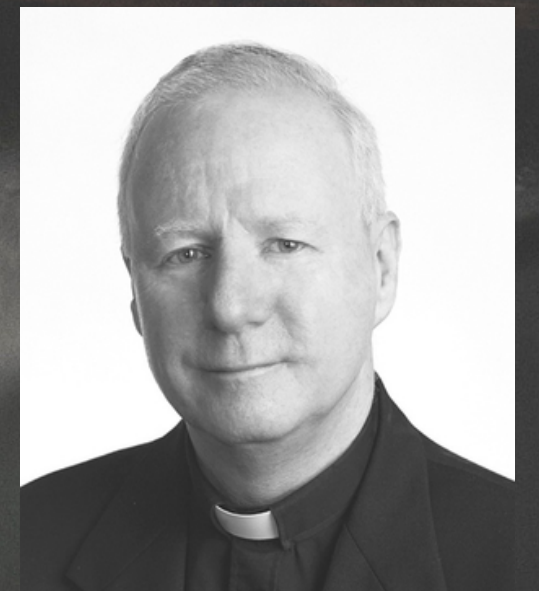


# PREACHING THE LECTIONARY

## The Gospel of Mark (Cycle B)



Presented by Fr. Stephen Rowan



# PREACHING IN CONTEXT

## 1. Contemporary contexts

a. The broad context

b. The local context

## 2. The context of Mark's Gospel: exile and disorientation

## 3. Preach “existentially”: The example of Pope Francis, March 27, 2020



# Christ in the Storm on the Lake of Galilee

Rembrandt

# READING MARK'S GOSPEL

## Outline

1. Wilderness (1:2-13)
2. Galilee (1:14-8:26)
3. The Way (8:27-10:52)
4. Jerusalem (11:1-15:41)
5. The Tomb (15:42-16:8)

# PART ONE: IN GALILEE

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

*Jesus Calls the First Disciples*

16<sup>e</sup> Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

17 Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." They left their nets and followed him.

18 And immediately he called James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James who were in their boat mending the nets. He called them as they were sitting in the boat.

# The Baptism

# JESUS MINISTERS IN GALILEE

## Works of Power

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
MARK

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17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 And going a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John, the brother of James, who were in their boat mending their nets. 20 He called them and said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

## The Call of Disciples

# Mark's Sandwich Technique

## Mark 6: 6-13

Jesus sends the disciples on mission

## Mark 6: 14-29

The mission and death of John

## Mark 6: 30-33

The disciples return from mission

# Teaching in Parables

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

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18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John, the brother of James, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them and they left their nets and followed him.

*John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

Beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah the prophet, 2

... before your

at the door  
sick with  
demons  
to speak

Jesus

35

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# The Sower

Van Gogh

# Disputes with Enemies

The man with a withered hand (3:1-6)

# Titles of Jesus

Christ

Son of God

Son of Man

# Two Feedings: Jewish and Gentile

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

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# TRANSITION

## Forming Disciples and Misunderstanding Along the Way

- Healing of a blind man in two stages
- Peter proclaims Jesus as “the Christ”
- Jesus teaches that the messiah must “suffer greatly” and predicts his Passion for the first time
- Peter protests and Jesus rebukes him and insists: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself” (8:34)



# The Transfiguration

Raphael

# Further Predictions of the Passion

- Prediction of the Passion #2 (9:30-32) and the need to become like children
- Prediction of the Passion #3 (10:32-34) and the ambition of James and John
- A second healing of a blind man as Jesus passes through Jericho and heads for Jerusalem.

# Challenges to Discipleship

From Mark:

- From without (the Pharisees, Scribes, Herod, “Jerusalem” = the “establishment”): “Lifestyles” of self-promotion and exploitation vs self giving
- From within (careerism): The need to learn and to achieve authentic motivation as a disciple through “downward mobility” and service along “the Way”



# Challenges to Discipleship

From Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium):

From without, a crisis of communal commitment/ lack of solidarity in society at large:

- i. A culture of greed and exclusion (#53)
- ii. A “crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the “sacralized” workings of the prevailing economic system and, with it, a “globalization of indifference” (#54)
- iii. The idolatry of money (#55)
- iv. Ethics is marginalized because it opposes mere power and greed (#57)

From within: “Careerism” that seeks merely personal profit from a position within the church. Inauthentic motivation that leads to sloth and pessimism, analyzed in # 82.

# PART TWO: JESUS IN JERUSALEM

Jerusalem:

- The locus of Roman occupational power
- The locus of Jewish leadership aligned with Rome
- The Temple, which, as Mark's congregation knew, was destined to fall in 70 AD.

# The Fig Tree

## Mark 11: 12-14

Jesus curses a barren fig tree

## Mark 11: 15-19

Jesus cleanses the Temple

## Mark 11: 20-25

The fig tree has withered

# Five Controversies with Opponents

- The parable of the tenants of the vineyard: A Key Parable in the church's early preaching (see Acts).
- “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s”: No political order can require absolute obedience against the kingdom of God.

# Five Controversies with Opponents

- From the story of the woman and the seven brothers (“Whose wife will she be?”) the truth of the resurrection is shown to be contemplated even in the Torah.
- The great commandment of the Law, as Jesus also teaches, is Love – of God and of neighbor.
- As Jesus interprets Psalm 110, Jesus is David’s “Lord”

# The Scribes and the Widow: A Contrast

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the Baptist Prepares the Way  
beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
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# The Apocalyptic Discourse

- The original audience and Mark's audience
- The purpose of apocalyptic: To engender hope

# THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MARK

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

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# The Agony in the Garden: WATCH

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

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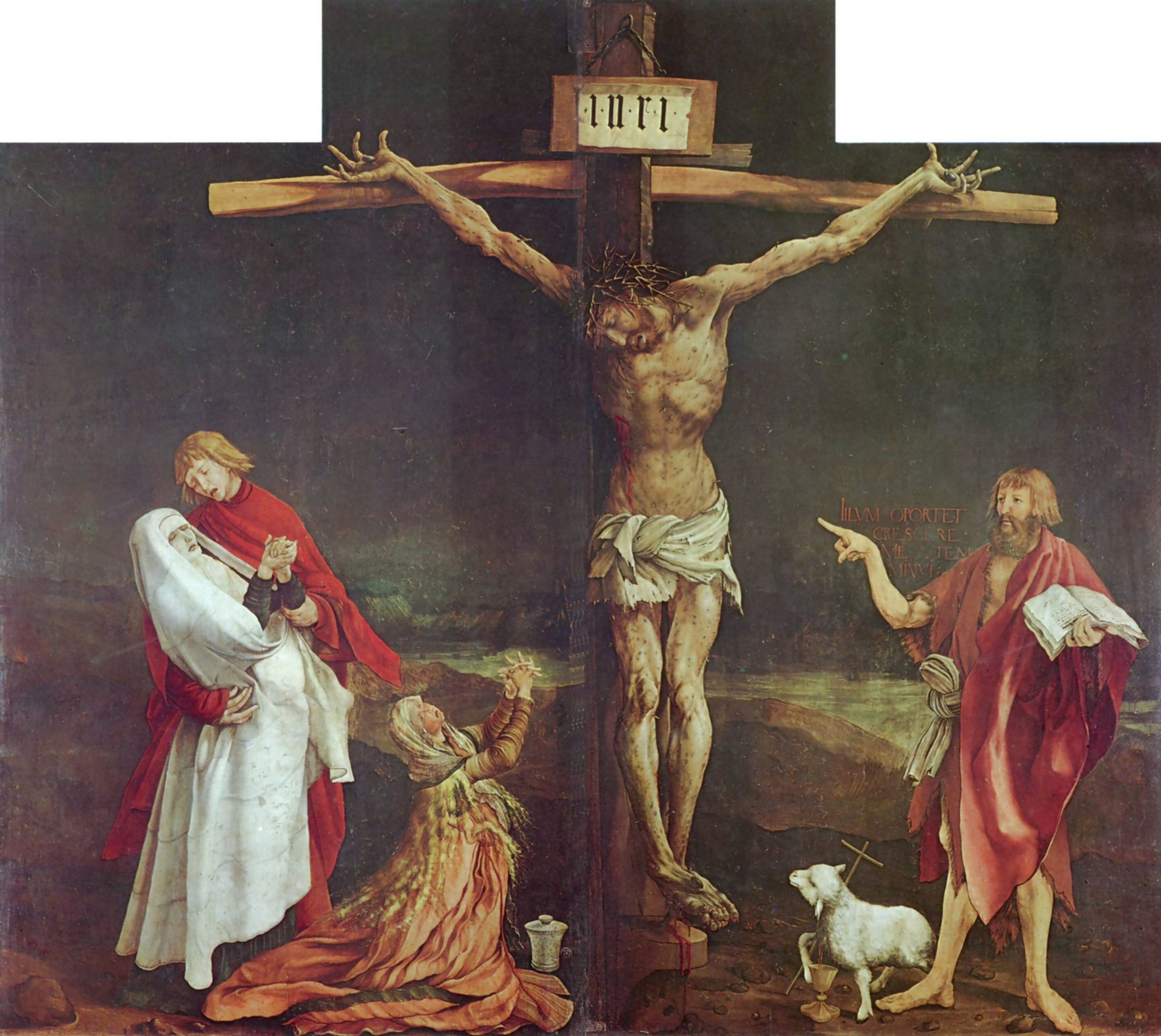
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# The Trial of Jesus and Denial of Peter

- Jesus testifies before the high priest (14:61-62)
- Peter denies Jesus (14:66-72)
- Jesus testifies before Pilate (15:1-5)



# The Crucifixion

Grünewald

# THE RESURRECTION

**“He is going before you to Galilee;  
there you will see him.”**

The rehabilitation of Peter