

Maundy Thursday,  
Plague Year

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [March 24, 2021](#) issue

*"and I am perpetually awaiting / a rebirth of wonder"*

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

No Footwashing.  
No solemn Eucharist.  
No stripping of the altar.  
No keeping watch  
by the Blessed Sacrament.

These absences  
are the stripping  
of the heart's altar,  
smashing the idols  
we have made  
with our own hands  
of how we worship.  
Skip basin, towel,  
even the Table.  
Go directly  
to Gethsemani's  
solitary, silent,  
dark waiting  
into seeming  
responselessness  
where, even now,  
in stone-hard earth  
one small stem  
is shattering  
its buried bulb.