

34. Mirror



This is one of Anish Kapoor's many 'sky mirrors' and is called Turning the World Upside Down. Because of its hourglass shape, this huge, highly-polished, steel 'mirror' reflects its surroundings in a startling way. The plaza from which people gaze at it is 'up' and the sky is below. Heaven on earth. And where in the world is it? On a hill in Jerusalem.

It's a good image to reflect upon as we prepare to enter Jerusalem (and Holy Week) with Jesus tomorrow. During his short Galilean ministry, he'd already brought heaven to earth with a startlingly topsy-turvy Kingdom but now, even more momentous up-endings of expectations are on their way - on another of Jerusalem's hills. God's Messiah stripped and tortured? The 'Word' silenced? A cosmic 'king' on a cross? Death turned on its head?

Holy Week itself throws up a mirror in which, if we're brave enough to look, we see ourselves reflected – upended even - through the stories of others. The crowd? Mary? The authorities? Judas? Peter? All of the above? "If Holy Week is going well," as Rowan Williams once said, "there will be moments of deep self-discovery and we might not like what we see." Fortunately, Holy Week's mirror will also reveal Jesus, redeeming our human dross with the gold of unconditional love.

Today...

... ready us, O God, for new discoveries
both about ourselves and also about you.

Amen