



April 8

Matthew 27:54

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

To ponder

“During the other protests, I watched. And talked. So now I wanna do something.”

“Who said talking isn’t doing something?” she says. “It’s more productive than silence. Remember what I told you about your voice?”

“You said it’s my biggest weapon.”

“And I meant that.”

—Angie Thomas, *The Hate U Give*

Lift every voice

Up to this point in Matthew’s gospel the centurion (an officer in the Roman army) and the men under his command have obeyed orders and done what is expected of them. At Pilate’s headquarters soldiers put a robe and a crown of thorns on Jesus and mocked him as “King of the Jews,” then led him away to Golgotha. They cast lots for his clothes as he was crucified. They carried out the execution of Jesus, and no riot erupted. They have done their job.

But now the earth shakes, tombs are abandoned, and rocks split in two. Surprising events, but even more surprising is the reaction of the centurion and soldiers to this divine disruption: *This man was God’s Son!*

The centurion and his companions are soldiers, not prophets, but their testimony matters. It becomes part of the good news God calls us to tell the world. You have heard this good news, so lift your voice, even if you think you are the most unlikely person to do so. Share the holy gospel. Become part of the story of what God has done through Jesus Christ, because in the world of faith, hope, and wondrous love, every voice matters.

Prayer

Holy One, speak to us, that we may speak in living echoes of your tone. Amen. (adapted from “Lord, speak to us, that we may speak,” by Frances R. Havergal, ELW 676, st. 1)