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(Benedictine Abbot Barnabas Senecal)

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"Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me."

— Samuel 7:16, Feast of St. Joseph, March 19

"He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth."

— Hosea 6:3, March 17, Lenten Weekday

A hint of warmth, a hint of growth,
a welcome return of spring;
formed in stone, an arch for March,
a month of madness, and of gladness.
Madness is in the fever for sport,
gladness is in the faithful heart;
gladness arises from green and sun,
from a soon-to-be Risen One.
March is anticipated, awaited,
a need to qualify, a need to win,
even Christ knew anticipation,
He awaited possible defeat.

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Many were those who doubted,
friends even denied knowing him;

Christ had strength to overcome,
it's that strength we celebrate, gladly.
Kansas stone built this monks' wall,
segments of color, mortared as one,
durable, perhaps everlasting,
holiness, wholeness, a possibility.
Not the stone rolled to the door,
not a stone to seal us off,
but stone to give us confidence,
to endure, to arise, even daily.

Editor's note: This reflection was originally published in the February 2012 issue of [Celebration](#). Sign up to receive [daily Lenten reflections](#).

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