

Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent



**Wednesday
March 19th 2014**

Daily Devotional

“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise”

Welcome to the thirteenth day of our journey as we bless our day and our life by spending a minimum of 5 minutes on each of our four-step **segment**.

Collect

Lord God, keep us your family schooled always in works of faith, and so comfort us with your protection here on earth and lead us to receive your gracious gifts on high. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Today's Readings

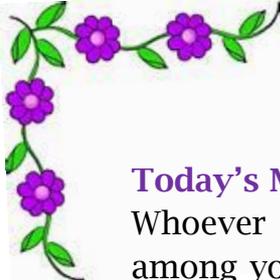
Psalm 31:5-6, 14-16;

Matthew 20:17-28

Matthew 20:17-28 (MSG)

To Drink from the Cup

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Jesus, now well on the way up to Jerusalem, took the Twelve off to the side of the road and said, “Listen to me carefully. We are on our way up to Jerusalem. When we get there, the Son of Man will be betrayed to the religious leaders and scholars. They will sentence him to death. They will then hand him over to the Romans for mockery and torture and crucifixion. On the third day he will be raised up alive.” ²⁰ It was about that time that the mother of the Zebedee brothers came with her two sons and knelt before Jesus with a request. ²¹ “What do you want?” Jesus asked. She said, “Give your word that these two sons of mine will be awarded the highest places of honor in your kingdom, one at your right hand, one at your left hand.” ²² Jesus responded, “You have no idea what you’re asking.” And he said to James and John, “Are you capable of drinking the cup that I’m about to drink?” They said, “Sure, why not?” ²³ Jesus said, “Come to think of it, you *are* going to drink my cup. But as to awarding places of honor, that’s not my business. My Father is taking care of that.” ²⁴⁻²⁸ When the ten others heard about this, they lost their tempers, thoroughly disgusted with the two brothers. So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, “You’ve observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It’s not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage.”



Today's Meditation

Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant. Jesus is telling me about his Passion, his Death and his Resurrection - for me. Too often I struggle with my ego - my strength, power or position in life - how great am I among my peers, family or colleagues? Taking this journey with Jesus, is to take a journey that draws me to be with him in it and to aspire to be like him: a servant of love for others. *"The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Am I a servant putting 'others' first?

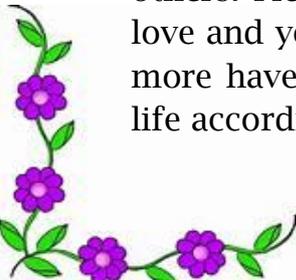
Today's Reflection

Let us give thanks to God, our Father. Through the power of His Spirit he purifies our heart and strengthens us in love. Let us humbly ask him today to give us of his Holy Spirit. To help us to receive good things from his generous hands with a deep sense of gratitude; and to accept with patience the evil and challenges that come to us in our walk with him.

Teach us to be loving, not only in great and exceptional moments, Lord, but above all in the ordinary events of our daily life. Help us to abstain from what we do not really need, and help our brothers and sisters who are experiencing distress in their lives at this time. May we bear the wounds of Jesus, for through his body he gave life to us.

Closing Prayer

God of Love, through this Lenten journey, I ask that you purify my desires to serve you. Free me from any temptations to judge others, to place myself above others. Please let me surrender even my impatience with others, that with your love and your grace, I might be less and less absorbed with myself, and more and more have the desire to follow you. May your Spirit help me in laying down my life according to your example. Lord be my mentor and my guide today.



Psalm 31:5-13 (MSG)



³⁻⁵ You're my cave to hide in, my cliff to climb.
Be my safe leader, be my true mountain guide.
Free me from hidden traps;
I want to hide in you.
I've put my life in your hands.
You won't drop me, you'll never let me down.
⁶⁻¹³ I hate all this silly religion,
but you, GOD, I trust.
I'm leaping and singing in the circle of your love;
you saw my pain, you disarmed my tormentors,
You didn't leave me in their clutches
but gave me room to breathe.
Be kind to me, GOD—
I'm in deep, deep trouble again.
I've cried my eyes out; I feel hollow inside.
My life leaks away, groan by groan;
my years fade out in sighs.
My troubles have worn me out,
turned my bones to powder.
To my enemies I'm a monster;
I'm ridiculed by the neighbors.
My friends are horrified;
they cross the street to avoid me.
They want to blot me from memory,
forget me like a corpse in a grave,
discard me like a broken dish in the trash.
The street-talk gossip has me "criminally insane"!
Behind locked doors they plot
how to ruin me for good.

