

Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent



**Saturday
March 15th 2014**

Daily Devotional

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

Welcome to Day eight as we bless our day and our life by spending a minimum of 5 minutes on each **segment** or **step below**:

- ✓ **Meditation** [5 minutes of quiet reflection]
- ✓ **Visualization** See what your day will be. With conviction, declare how you want your day to unfold and your intentions toward God, his creation and other people who you will be privileged to meet today. And who will be fortunate to encounter you.
- ✓ **Gratitude:** Thankful for the good happenings in your life. Appreciate where you are NOW from where you WERE then.
- ✓ **Inspirational Reading:** Read an article about a person or a situation that will inspire you today.
- ✓

Collect:

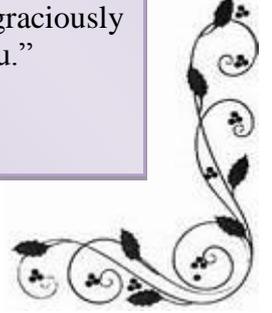
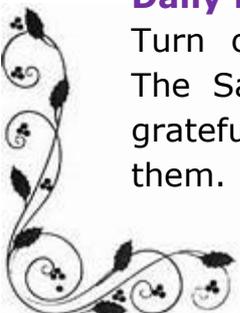
Turn our hearts to you, eternal Father, and grant that, seeking always the one thing necessary and carrying out works of charity, we may be dedicated to your worship. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The Reading

Matthew 5:43-48

Daily Meditation:

Turn our hearts to you Lord. The Saturdays of Lent have a grateful and uplifting tone to them.



Matthew 5:43-48 (MSG)

⁴³⁻⁴⁷ “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

⁴⁸ “In a word, what I’m saying is, *Grow up*. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”



Our lesson today reminds us of the covenant God made long ago: you be my people and I will be your God. In the new covenant, without condition, God is faithful to us, even if we are not. Jesus calls us to a new way of being - loving others as we have been loved - which includes loving those who do not love us. We are to be as pure in our love, as God is pure in loving us. God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. John 3:16

Today's Reflection

Today I reflect on God's ability to recreate all that he has created. In order to make me his new creation, Christ my Lord gave me the waters of rebirth and spread the table of his body and his word for me to partake. Therefore I call upon him and say: Lord, renew me in your grace. Jesus, meek and humble of heart, clothe me with compassion, kindness and humility, make me want to be patient with everyone in encounter in my life. Teach me to be a true neighbor to all in trouble and distress, and so imitate you, Lord, the Good Samaritan. I pray for all those vowed to a life of ministry, that they may deepen their dedication to you and to the Church. Grant us all the gift of your mercy and forgiveness.

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, Sometimes my heart turns in every direction except towards you. Please help me to turn my heart toward you, to gaze upon you in trust and to seek your kingdom with all of my heart. Soften my hardened heart so that I might love others as a way to glorify and worship you. Grant me this with the ever-present guidance of your spirit.

*May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen*

