

Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent



Friday
March 21st 2014
Daily Devotional

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

Welcome to Day fifteen 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:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, purifying us by the practice of forgiveness, you may lead us in sincerity of heart to attain the holy things to come. 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 105:16-21; Matthew 21: 33-43

Today's Meditation

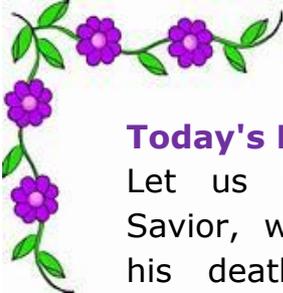
Help me to open our hearts to you Lord Jesus. I read and hear of the vineyard owner whose tenants killed his servants and then his son. Let me be, one whom you have called open my heart and life to the challenge of your Gospel. It is possible for me to say this every day: *"Therefore, I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and be given to a people that will produce its fruit."* -- Matthew 21

Psalm 105:16-22 (MSG)

¹⁶⁻²² Then he called down a famine on the country, he broke every last blade of wheat.

But he sent a man on ahead: Joseph, sold as a slave. They put cruel chains on his ankles, an iron collar around his neck, Until God's word came to the Pharaoh, and GOD confirmed his promise. God sent the king to release him.

The Pharaoh set Joseph free; He appointed him master of his palace, put him in charge of all his business To personally instruct his princes and train his advisors in wisdom.



Today's Reflection

Let us pray to Christ our Savior, who redeemed us by his death and resurrection: Lord, have mercy on us. You who went up to Jerusalem to suffer and so enter into your glory, - bring your Church to the Passover feast of heaven which you have promised those who have passed through the tribulation and receive the victory of your cross.

Lord, have mercy on your Church today. You were lifted high on the cross and pierced by the soldier's lance, - heal our wounds.

Lord, have mercy on your Church today. You made the cross the tree of life, - give its fruit to those who are reborn in the baptism of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, have mercy on your Church today. On the cross you forgave the repentant thief, through which we are cleansed of our sins.

Lord, have mercy on me and on your whole Church, today.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, my caring parent, I am a child who so often turn my back on your love. Please accept my small acts of contrition and repentance today and may your Spirit work in me to release me from the self-absorption that closes my heart to you. As I journey through Lent, let me remember the feast you have prepared for me in the resurrection and let me be filled with gratitude to you.

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



Matthew 21:33-44 MSG

The Story of the Greedy Farmhands



³³⁻³⁴“Here’s another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.” ³⁵⁻³⁷“The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. ‘Surely,’ he thought, ‘they will respect my son.’” ³⁸⁻³⁹“But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’ They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.” ⁴⁰“Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?” ⁴¹“He’ll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance,” they answered. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it’s time.” ⁴²⁻⁴⁴Jesus said, “Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles: The stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone. This is God’s work; we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it! “This is the way it is with you. God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed.”

