

## **Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024**

### **Day 38, Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Centering**

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Thank you so much for joining us for a moment of centering and prayer as we hear God's Word read from the Old Testament, the Psalms, and the New Testament every day of Lent.

Take just a few moments to gather and focus yourself.

Stop what ever else you have going on.

Close the door, turn off the TV, mute the cell phone...make these next few moments about you and the Lord.

Take 3 deep breaths, each time, holding the inhale for 5 seconds, then slowly exhaling.

When you are centered, begin to read.

#### **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Lexham English Bible)**

1 Give thanks to Yahweh for he is good,  
for his loyal love is forever.

2 Let Israel say,

“His loyal love is forever.”

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to Yahweh.

20 This is the gate of Yahweh,  
through which the righteous will enter.

21 I will give thanks to you for you have answered me,  
and you have become my salvation.

22 The stone the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is from Yahweh;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.

24 This is the day Yahweh has worked;  
let us rejoice and be glad in him.

25 O Yahweh, please save;  
O Yahweh, please grant success.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh.  
We bless you from the house of Yahweh.

27 Yahweh is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords  
to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you.  
You are my God; I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to Yahweh for he is good,

for his loyal love is forever.

### **Jeremiah 33:1-9 (International Standard Version)**

1 This message from the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time while he was still confined in the courtyard of the guard:

2 “This is what the Lord says who made the earth, the Lord who formed it in order to establish it—whose name is the Lord—

3 ‘Call to me and I’ll answer you, and will tell you about great and hidden things that you don’t know.’

4 For this is what the Lord God of Israel says about the houses of this city and the houses of the kings of Judah that were torn down to defend against the siege ramps and the sword,

5 ‘The Chaldeans are coming to fight and to fill those houses with the dead bodies of the people that I’ve struck down in my anger and wrath, for I’ve hidden my face from this city because of all their wickedness.

6 “Look, I’ll bring restoration and healing to it, and I’ll heal them. I’ll reveal to them an abundance of peace and faithfulness.

7 I’ll restore the security of Judah and Israel and rebuild them as they were at first.

8 I’ll cleanse them from all their sin that they have committed against me, and I’ll forgive all their sins that they committed against me and by which they rebelled against me.

9 Jerusalem will be for me a name of joy, praise, and glory to all the nations of the earth that hear about all the good that I’m doing for them. They’ll fear and tremble because of all the good and because of all the peace that I’m bringing to Jerusalem.’

### **Philippians 2:12-18 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

12 So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose.

14 Do everything without grumbling and arguing,

15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world.

16 Hold firmly to the message of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn’t run or labor for nothing.

17 But even if I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

18 In the same way you should also be glad and rejoice with me.

### **Prayer**

*(Pray this prayer or use your own words.)*

God, there are great and hidden things I do not know.

From my limited vantage point, I can only see the outskirts of the promised city,  
the ramparts of Your promised dwelling place.

Open to me the gates of righteousness that I may go in.

As I enter, cleanse me, and forgive my rebellious ways.

For it is You working in me, enabling me both to desire *and* to work out Your good purpose  
for me  
God, Your loyal love is good.  
Your loyal love is forever.  
Bring Your restoration and healing now, and bring it in abundance!  
Amen.