

**Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent, 2024**  
**Day 37, Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Centering**

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Thursday, March 21<sup>st</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.

**Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 (New Revised Standard Version)**

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Let Israel say,  
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
- 26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27 The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.
- Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;  
you are my God, I will extol you.

29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

### **Deuteronomy 16:1-8 (The Voice)**

- 1 During the month of Abib at the beginning of spring, celebrate Passover in honor of the Eternal, your True God. In that month, He brought you out of Egypt at night.
- 2 Take an animal from your herd or flock, go to the place He will choose for His name, and offer a Passover sacrifice to the Eternal your God.
- 3 Don't eat any leavened bread with it. Eat unleavened bread during the seven days of this celebration because "suffering bread" is what you made when you quickly left your suffering in Egypt. If you eat it again each year, you'll always remember the day you left Egypt.
- 4 For these seven days, no one in the whole country should have any yeast. And none of the meat from the sacrifice you offer on the first night of the celebration should be left over on the next day.
- 5 Don't offer the Passover sacrifice in any of the other cities the Eternal your God is giving you.
- 6 Even if it's some distance, make the journey to the place He will choose for His name. Offer the Passover sacrifice in that place, in the evening, at sunset—the time when you left Egypt.
- 7 Cook it, and eat it in the place He chooses. In the morning, you can return to your tents,
- 8 but you must still only eat unleavened bread for the next six days. On the seventh day, the last day of the celebration, soberly gather together to worship Him. Don't do any work on that day.

### **Philippians 2:1-11 (Good News Translation)**

- 1 Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another.
- 2 I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind.
- 3 Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves.
- 4 And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own.
- 5 The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had:
- 6 He always had the nature of God,  
but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God.
- 7 Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had,  
and took the nature of a servant.  
He became like a human being  
and appeared in human likeness.
- 8 He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—  
his death on the cross.
- 9 For this reason God raised him to the highest place above  
and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.
- 10 And so, in honor of the name of Jesus

all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below  
will fall on their knees,  
11 and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **Prayer**

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

You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;

You are my God, and I will extol You.

Just as you delivered Your children Israel from Egypt with a mighty hand,  
so too have You brought me from the place of wandering  
into full communion with You.

Father, I desire to make You completely happy,

by having Your same thoughts,

sharing Your same love,

and being one with You in soul and mind.

See the doorposts of my heart.

Bear witness to the blood of Jesus that covers them.

May the desolation of my sin pass me by,

and may this season be a constant reminder that

You deliver.

You save.

You love.

Amen.