

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

### **Day 39, Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **Centering**

Welcome to Daily Devotional Readings for the Season of Lent.

Today is Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</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, 9-29 (English Standard Version)**

- 1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Let Israel say,  
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.
- 10 All nations surrounded me;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
- 11 They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
- 12 They surrounded me like bees;  
they went out like a fire among thorns;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
- 13 I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,  
but the Lord helped me.
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation.
- 15 Glad songs of salvation  
are in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,
- 16 the right hand of the Lord exalts,  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!"
- 17 I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has disciplined me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

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 cornerstone.[b]

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 pray, O Lord!  
O Lord, we pray, give us success!

26 Blessed is he 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 made his light to shine upon us.  
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,  
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 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

### **Jeremiah 33:10-16 (The Message)**

10-11 “Yes, God’s Message: ‘You’re going to look at this place, these empty and desolate towns of Judah and streets of Jerusalem, and say, “A wasteland. Unlivable. Not even a dog could live here.” But the time is coming when you’re going to hear laughter and celebration, marriage festivities, people exclaiming, “Thank God-of-the-Angel-Armies. He’s so good! His love never quits,” as they bring thank offerings into God’s Temple. I’ll restore everything that was lost in this land. I’ll make everything as good as new.’ I, God, say so.

12-13 “God-of-the-Angel-Armies says: ‘This coming desolation, unfit for even a stray dog, is once again going to become a pasture for shepherds who care for their flocks. You’ll see flocks everywhere—in the mountains around the towns of the Shephelah and Negev, all over the territory of Benjamin, around Jerusalem and the towns of Judah—flocks under the care of shepherds who keep track of each sheep.’ God says so.

14-18 “‘Watch for this: The time is coming’—God’s Decree—‘when I will keep the promise I made to the families of Israel and Judah. When that time comes, I will make a fresh and true shoot sprout from the David-Tree. He will run this country honestly and fairly. He will set things right. That’s when Judah will be secure and Jerusalem live in safety. The motto for the city will be, “God Has Set Things Right for Us.” God has made it clear that there will always be a descendant of David ruling the people of Israel and that there will always be Levitical priests on hand to offer burnt offerings, present grain offerings, and carry on the sacrificial worship in my honor.’”

**Mark 10:32-34, 46-52 (Amplified Bible)**

32 Now they were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were perplexed [at what Jesus had said], and those who were following were alarmed and afraid. And again He took the twelve [disciples] aside and began telling them what was going to happen to Him,

33 saying, "Listen very carefully: we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed and handed over to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and hand Him over to the Gentiles (Romans).

34 They will mock and ridicule Him and spit on Him, and whip (scourge) Him and kill Him, and three days later He will rise [from the dead]."

**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 with 1,000 tongues, I will tell of Your glory

But my mouth has not always been so vocal.

There have been times that barely a whisper could escape to be heard.

For I realize that my Lord served faithfully, even up to His death...

a death he knew was coming at the hands of His beloved creation...just like me.

But I ask, gracious Father, even as I find myself wanting,

that you restore joy and gladness once again.

May the waters of Your praises gush forth from me, like an uncontrolled river.

Let my forever motto be: "God has set things right for me."

Amen.