

Introduction To This Guide

These daily devotions are provided to encourage you to listen and reflect on how God is speaking to you during this Season of Lent. The question at the end of each day's contemplation is intended to foster further reflection and prayer throughout the day. In addition, space is provided for you to document your thoughts on how you hear God speaking to you at this time. May you be blessed and transformed through the Holy Spirit as you ponder God's word during this most holy of seasons. ++ *Provided by:* Community Missions Inc., 1570 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14303, Phone: (716) 285-3403, www.communitymissions.org

Where Do I Begin?

Begin each day with the Prayer of Illumination to help, prepare your heart to hear God's word for you. Read "to be formed and transformed rather than to gather information...Read with a vulnerable heart. Expect to be blessed...Read as one awake, one waiting for the beloved. Read with reverence."

Let us Pray a *Prayer of Illumination*:

All-Seeing One, above me, around me, within me —

guide my vision as I engage with your sacred words.

Look down upon me, look out from within me, look all around me.

See through my eyes, hear through my ears, feel through my heart.

God of Wisdom, touch me where I need to be touched;

and when my heart is touched, give me the grace to lay

down this Holy Book and ask significant questions:

Why has my heart been touched by you?

How am I to be changed through your touch?

All-Seeing One, I need to change, I need to look a little more like You.

May these sacred words change and transform me.

Then I can meet You face to face...when I shall be healed forever.

Your Word and the touch of your Spirit bring healing...

a healing that will last.

O Eye of God, look not away.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me. Amen.

HOLY SATURDAY - Day 46

REST IN PEACE

Colossians 3:1-10

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things - anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

REST IN PRAYER

It is *Holy Saturday, you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* Saturday, the horrific events of Friday are passed, Jesus has been betrayed by one of his chosen disciples, been denied by his most trusted disciple, been tried by those seeking to convict him, and been crucified between two criminals. Jesus, the man on whom they had pinned all their hopes of deliverance and peace, has died. Today he rests in a tomb, a new tomb in which no one has ever laid, a rich man's tomb. He is sealed off from his friends and closely guarded by his enemies. What is it like for Jesus dead? Does he 'descend into hell to minister to the dead' as some doctrines propose, or is he resting from the hard labor of life on earth. Is there rest for our Savior, or is he to be constantly and forevermore saving souls?

It is perhaps heresy to even think that Jesus the Christ, now in the tomb, rests. But I can imagine that this is how Jesus rests: praying. Because we have *seen* how Jesus rests, he goes up on the mountain to be with his Father. (Mark 6:30-46) And so, even as he rests, his heart and soul and mind are always petitioning the Father on behalf of the lost sheep who need saving. My hope is that Jesus my savior, as he lays

dead in his tomb, counts *praying* as resting; praying for those whose lives have passed from this earth but did not have or take opportunity to know him. Just as Jesus, being arrested in the garden, says, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” I can imagine him laying in the tomb, dead but still praying, “[Please Father do not let me] lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” (John 18:9)

PRAYER

There is much I do not understand about death, but my hope is that in death there is rest, and a peace that passes all understanding. (Philippians 4:7) Amen

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

What is your hope about death and life after death?

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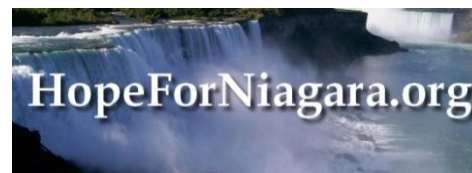
Lent 2022 – Day 46

A Guide for Devotion and Prayer



Entry into the City - John August Swanson

SATURDAY OF HOLY WEEK REST IN PRAYER



An Initiative Of
Community Missions
PUBLISHED BY THE BIBLE SOCIETY
1570 Buffalo Ave
Niagara Falls, NY 14303
www.CommunityMissions.org

This week’s devotional resource was written by Rev. Wendy Depew Partelow, President of the American Baptist Churches of New York State Board of Missions, and edited by Rev. Mark H. Breese of Community Missions. The content was created specifically keeping in mind the populations served by Community Missions.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- Scripture Verses are from the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV), HarpurCollins Publishers, 1989.
- The choice of Daily Scripture texts are taken from *Lent & Easter, Wisdom from Thomas Merton*, Linguori Publications.
- *Prayer, *Lent & Easter, Wisdom from Thomas Merton*, Linguori Publications, p. 91.
- **adapted from: For Courage to Do Justice #456, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, United Methodist Publishing House, 1989.
- ***Ibid, Amazing. Grace #378, first verse.
- ****Prayer, *Lent & Easter, Wisdom from Thomas Merton*, Linguori Publications, p. 101.