

Lenten Reflections

Holy Week

The Divine Intervention

April 12, 2017



Scripture

Isaiah 50:4-9

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
That I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.
Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
And I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.
I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
My face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.
The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.
He is near who upholds my right;
if anyone wishes to oppose me,

let us appear together.
Who disputes my right?
Let him confront me.
See, the Lord GOD is my help;
who will prove me wrong?

Our Scripture Reflection

I can only imagine how comforting Isaiah's words were to Jesus as He was going through the humiliating and agonizing passion. He knew His Father was with Him. Jesus did not hold back. He went directly through it all to His glory and He did it for you and me.

Food for your Journey

One summer, a man spent the day on the beach in Jacksonville, Florida. The undertow was unusually strong that day, and more than once, lifeguards jumped down from their towers to rescue swimmers from the treacherous surf. Finally, the man went to the lifeguard station to express his appreciation for the dedication of these men. When he walked inside, he noticed a sign on the wall in large red letters: "If in doubt, go!" And the man said, "Those same words should be on the walls of every church and on the wall of every person's soul." -- With thanks to Wesley Taylor, Tigard, Oregon

A Prayer from the Heart

God, ever present, you have promised us "I Am With You Always ..."
(Matthew 28:20). Through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, O God, stay with us:

When we feel lonely

When we are hurt

When we are afraid

When we feel inadequate

When we can't pray

When we don't understand

When we are stuck

When we are misunderstood
When we really goofed
When we have stopped before we should have
When we don't recognize God at all
When our prayers seem like dead words to us
When the seeds of faith seem to be dying
When we get weary of religion
When friends fail us
When money is scarce or nonexistent
When we feel sick
When we are plain down discouraged
When Christians greatly disappoint us
When we have been forsaken and life seems unfair
When we have misjudged someone
When we don't want to hear the truth
When we don't like ourselves
When we are blind to opportunities pressing in on us
When we are in real danger
When the world is too much for us
When we need courage and grace
When we have lost a loved one
When we have been emotionally abused
When it seems like there is no relief in sight
When we have become "unglued"
When other people's "spirituality" annoys us
When we need peace
When we don't know the right way, are not sure, or
struggle with the gray areas of life
When we are depressed

When we have lost control

When we must wait

When we need to trust

When we have nothing more to give

When we feel trapped

When we have "lost it"

When our love has grown lukewarm

When we need healing in body, mind or spirit

When we need to be forgiven When we face our own death.

Eternal God, thank you for your promise: "I will never leave you or forsake you"

(Hebrews 13:5). -- Adapted from a poem by Ray A. Strawser, September 16, 1996.