

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Second Week of Lent

Serenity is being still with a listening heart and an open mind.

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20

Micah denounces Israel's sins, especially the social crimes. He says that God will, again, have compassion and remove the guilt of his people. God will cast all sins into the depths of the sea.

Leave your sinfulness behind and move on with confidence in God's forgiving and healing love.

Psalms 103

**Bless the Lord O my soul!
And all my being, bless his holy name.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far does he put our transgressions from us.**

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

We read one of the most familiar stories of the Gospel, the parable of the prodigal son. This is a story of running away from home, turning around in repentance, and being embraced by forgiving love. We meet a father who lets his son make his own choices and regretfully let him go his way and welcomes him back, without conditions, on his return.

We meet a son who rejects the love of the family and chooses to abandon everything that the family represented for him, encountering personal failures and eventually turning around in repentance and seeking forgiveness and healing.

We meet another son who fails to understand the heart of his father and refuses to forgive and accept his repentant brother.

This is a very moving and inspiring and challenging story. This story is a "Gospel" in itself. It is the Gospel, the good news of God's forgiving, healing, unconditional, steadfast and all-embracing love.

Learn to recognize your own failures and sinfulness and return home to God! Learn to forgive your brother from the heart! Learn to trust in the unconditional, forgiving, all-embracing love of God in Jesus.

Saint of the day, March 7 - Sts. Perpetua and Felicity and 10 other saints are remembered this day.

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity were Christian martyrs who lived during the early persecution of the Church in Africa by the Emperor Severus. With details concerning the lives of many early martyrs unclear and often based on legend, we are fortunate to have the actual record of the courage of Perpetua and Felicity from the hand of Perpetua herself, her teacher Saturus, and others who knew them. This account, known as "The Passion of St. Perpetua, St. Felicitas, and their Companions," was so popular in the early centuries that it was read during liturgies.

In the year 203, Vivia Perpetua, a well-educated noblewoman, made the decision to follow the path of her mother and become a Christian, although she knew it could mean her death during the persecutions ordered by the Emperor Severus. Perpetua's mother was a Christian and her father a pagan. He continually pleaded with her to deny her faith. She refused and was imprisoned at age 22.

Despite threats of persecution and death, Perpetua, Felicity—a slavewoman and expectant mother—and three companions, Revocatus, Secundulus and Saturninus, refused to renounce their Christian faith. For their unwillingness, all were sent to the public games in the amphitheater. There Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded, and the others killed by beasts.

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