

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

**Trust in the steadfast love of the Lord and his provident care
and be steadfast... the storms of life don't last forever.**

Genesis 1:1-19

This excerpt tells us the story of creation. God gives a “form” to that which didn’t have a form.

God separated light from darkness.... God gathers the waters that will continue to bless the earth.

Wise men and women continue to reflect on the Creative activity of God and God’s word of wisdom which brings everything into being.

God saw everything created as GOOD and God blessed them.

May God’s creation bless you and may your presence bless God’s creation!

Psalm 104

**Bless the Lord, Oh my soul!
O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak.**

Mark 6:53-56

Mark tells us that People came from all over to touch and be touched by Jesus.

All kinds of people found the power of healing in that touch - the healing touch.

Mark tells us that all who touched Jesus got well.

**May your touch be affirming, compassionate, encouraging, gentle, healing, kind,
loving, sensitive, supportive, transforming!**

Saint of the Day, February 6 - St. Paul Miki & Companions and 28 other saints are remembered this day.

Paul Miki was born into the family of a rich Japanese military leader at Tounucumada, Japan. He had his education at the Jesuit college of Anziquiama. He joined the Jesuits in 1580 and began his education and formation to the priesthood. In 1587, Emperor Hideyoshi of Japan ordered the banishment of all Catholics, forcing the Jesuit missionaries to operate from hiding. In 1596, Hideyoshi rounded up twenty-six Christians. Miki was jailed along with other Christians. He and his Christian companions were forced to walk about 600 miles from Kyoto as a punishment for the whole community. On the way they sang the Te Deum, the Church's hymn of praise and thanksgiving. Finally, they arrived at Nagasaki, the city which had the most conversions to Christianity. Paul, still a Jesuit scholastic, at the age of 35, was crucified on February 5, 1597, along with 25 other Catholics.

While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: "The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."

Together with him died Santiago Kisai, also a Jesuit scholastic, and Diego Kisai (or Kizayemon), a Jesuit brother, in addition to 22 priests and lay people. This took place during the persecution of Christians under the Taiko, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who ruled Japan in the name of the emperor. All were canonized as the Martyrs of Japan by Pope Pius IX in 1862.

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