

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Seventh Week of Easter

**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.**

(Psalm 103)

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Paul was arrested in Jerusalem at the close of his third journey and brought before the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin. Serious dispute arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees over their differences with Paul. Paul was blessed with courage and given the assurance that he would witness to the resurrection of Jesus in Rome just as he did in Jerusalem.

Psalm 16

**I bless the lord who counsels me;
Even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the Lord ever before me;
With him at my right hand,
I shall not be disturbed.**

John 17:20-26

Jesus, first, prayed for himself as he was preparing himself to face the cross. Then he prayed for his disciples and God's power for them. Now his prayer takes a sweep into the distant future and into distant lands and prays for all who will believe.

His prayer was that all will be one - all will experience the kind of oneness that he experienced with the Father; that all will be one in the oneness of himself and the Father; that the world will believe that the Father sent him; that the unity of all will be complete (perfect); that all will have a vision of the gift of glory that comes from the Father's love; that the Father's love will live in all.....

The prayer of Jesus centers on abiding in him, in love, in unity, in harmony, in eternal glory - God living in us and we living in God. It is this unity, harmony, oneness that will convince the world of the truth of Christianity, the truth that Jesus came to proclaim and the place of Jesus in our life and the life of the world.

Only the love that abides in the hearts of men and women can tear down the barriers that keep us apart and bring us into communion with God and one another.

Saint of the Day, May 25 - St. Bede the Venerable and 23 other saints are remembered this day.

Bede was born in the year 673 near the English town of Jarrow. At an early age, his parents entrusted him to the care of the abbot of the Monastery of St. Paul, Jarrow. The abbot and a group of other monks instructed Bede not only in scripture and theology, but also in sacred music, poetry and the Greek language.

Recognizing his remarkable devotion to prayer and study, Bede was ordained a deacon at the age of 19 and ordained a priest at the age of 30. After becoming a priest, he began working on farming, baking, and other works of the monastery, besides celebration Mass. He gave priority to prayer, fasting and charitable hospitality. He showed excellence in a wide range of subjects.

Bede declined a request to become abbot of his monastery. Instead, he concentrated on writing, and produced more than 45 books – primarily about theology and the Bible, but also on science, literature, and history. He also taught hundreds of students at the monastery and its school, which became renowned throughout Britain.

Bede died in Jarrow on May 26, 735 praying his favorite prayer, “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As in the beginning, so now, and forever” shortly after finishing an Anglo-Saxon translation of the Gospel of John. Pope Leo XIII canonized and declared him a Doctor of the Church in 1899.

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