

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Saturday Third Week of Lent**

**I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.**

(Psalm 89:2)

## **Hosea 6:1-6**

“It is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than holocausts”, with these words Hosea invites us today to turn to the Lord, our God of compassion and Love. Hosea assures his people and us today: “He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth”. So strive to know the Lord, turn to him in love.

## **Psalm 51**

**Have mercy on me God in your goodness;  
In the greatness of your compassion, wipe out my offense.  
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt  
and of my sin cleanse me.....**

## **Luke 18: 9-14**

Jesus spoke the parable of a tax collector and a Pharisee at prayer. The tax collector humbled himself before God and prayed for mercy and was blessed with forgiveness, justification and mercy. The Pharisee claimed to be good, better than the tax collector, justified himself before God and went home feeling good about himself.

It is the tax collector who humbled himself before God that went home forgiven and healed while the Pharisee went home feeling good about himself and better than others.

Jesus says: “everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled while he who humbles himself shall be exalted”.

**Be humble! Come before the Lord in humility, sincerity and truth!**

**To be humble is to acknowledge and accept the truth about self. Humility is not a denial of self and self-worth – it is an affirmation and grateful acceptance of all that you are as God’s gift of love.**

**Be grateful and celebrate your life as God's gift of love!**

**Saint of the day, March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem and 10 other saints are remembered this day.**

St. Cyril was born probably around the year 315 C.E. near the city of Jerusalem. Little is known of his life before he became a bishop. He was raised in Jerusalem and was well-educated, especially in the Scriptures and theological matters. Tradition tells us that Cyril was ordained a deacon by Bishop Macarius of Jerusalem around the year 335 C.E. and a priest some eight years later by Bishop Maximus. He succeeded St. Maximus in the See of Jerusalem toward the end of 350 C.E.

Conflict soon rose between Cyril and Acacius, bishop of the rival nearby see of Caesarea. Cyril was summoned to a council, accused of insubordination and of selling Church property to relieve the poor. Probably, however, a theological difference was also involved. He was condemned, driven from Jerusalem, and later vindicated, not without some association with and help from Semi-Arians. Half his episcopate was spent in exile; his first experience was repeated twice. He finally returned to find Jerusalem torn with heresy, schism and strife, and wracked with crime. Even Saint Gregory of Nyssa, who was sent to help, left in despair.

They both went to the Council of Constantinople, where the amended form of the Nicene Creed was promulgated in 381 C.E. Cyril accepted the word consubstantial—that is, Christ is of the same substance or nature as the Father. The bishops of the Council praised him as a champion of orthodoxy against the Arians. He died probably around the year 386 C.E.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs