

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, First Week of Lent

A purposeful life is characterized by the influence it has on others.

Isaiah 55:10-11

Chapter 55 of Isaiah invites us to come to God, to listen to God's wisdom, to be fed and nourished on God's word of wisdom, to renounce the way of foolishness and wickedness and to turn to God and God's ways. The prophet says God's ways are not our ways. So, seek the Lord and his ways!

God's word is alive, active and dynamic. God's word is faithful word and the word will become fruitful and life-giving. **Nourish and strengthen yourselves with God's word.**

Psalm 34

**Glorify the Lord with me,
Let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.**

Mathew 6:7-15

This is how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Begin prayer by addressing God "Father". Come into the presence of someone who need not be forced to give, but to a Father who simply gives. Reverence to God must be first, before all else.

The first "three" petitions are about reverence for God - holy be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done. God first. All other things will then fall in their proper places.

Prayer should not be our attempt to bend God's will to our desires - but must be a surrender of our will to Gods' will - bringing our will into harmony with God's will.

The second "three" petitions are about our needs, and they cover all life: praying for the essential needs (daily bread) for the day; forgiveness for sin of the past; help for meeting the testing times in the future.

Bring the whole of life – your present, past and future - before God.

Saint of the Day, March 11 - Saint John Ogilvie and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint John Ogilvie was born in 1579 in Scotland. He was the eldest son of Walter Ogilvie, a respected Calvinist. At the age of twelve he was sent to the European continent to be educated. He attended several Catholic educational establishments, under the Benedictines in Germany and with the Jesuits in Moravia. In the midst of the religious controversies and turmoil that engulfed the Europe of that era, he decided to become a Catholic.

In 1596, aged seventeen, he was received into the Catholic Church at Leuven, Belgium. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1599 and was ordained a priest in Paris in 1610. After ordination he served in Rouen in Normandy where he made repeated requests to be sent to Scotland to minister to the few remaining Catholics in the Glasgow area. It was his hope that some Catholic nobles there would aid him, given his lineage. Finding none, he went to London, then back to Paris, and finally returned to Scotland in November 1613 disguised as a horse trader named John Watson. Thereafter he began to preach in secret, celebrating Mass clandestinely in private homes.

This ministry was to last less than a year. In October 1614, Ogilvie was discovered and arrested in Glasgow under the orders of Archbishop Spottiswood and was imprisoned. He was initially treated well, but after continually refusing to confess, was tortured by sleep deprivation. John Ogilvie was publicly hanged and drawn on March 10, 1615 in Glasgow.

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