

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Fifth Week of Lent

**God is love and so He cannot but love. It is his nature.
It is who he is. He is steadfast.**

Ezekiel 37:21-28

The Prophet Ezekiel proclaims a new “hope” for his, alienated and suffering people. God was going to do something very new: there would be one God, one nation, one covenantal people, one temple and one law. Yahweh was doing it – establishing an eternal covenant of peace. “I will be their God and they shall be my people”.

Pray for unity and harmony among all peoples and nations.

Jeremiah 31:10-13

**He who scatters Israel now gathers them together,
He guards them as a shepherd his flock.....
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.**

John 11:45-57

Hatred of the Jews for Jesus increased day by day. The Sanhedrin met to discuss about what had to be done with Jesus. These were people who did not know what was good for them and did not know how to receive blessings and grace.

Be open to the blessings and grace which God sends through unexpected sources.

Caiaphas proposed that it was better for one man to die than for the whole nation to be destroyed. He was thinking of the death of Jesus to avoid trouble with the Romans.

Jesus was to die for the nation and for all of God’s people.

In response to this, Jesus withdrew from that region with the disciples and did not move freely in Jewish circles. The Jews wondered whether Jesus would come for the Passover festival. The authorities had made plans to apprehend Jesus.

Jesus was not reckless. He discerned and waited in patience for his time to come according the plan of His Father. Be discerning! Wait patiently...with open arms!

Saint of the day, April 1 - St. Hugh of Grenoble and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Hugh was born in 1053 in southeastern France at Châteauneuf-sur-Isère, near Grenoble in the western foothills of the Alps. He showed piety and theological facility from a young age. While still a layman, he was made a canon of Valence. At the Council of Avignon in 1080, he was elected bishop of Grenoble, though he was not yet ordained.

Hugh was selected to carry out reforms of abuses within the Church which had been instituted under Pope Gregory VII, who ordained Hugh in Rome after his election as bishop. Corruption seemed to loom in every direction: the buying and selling of Church offices, violations of clerical celibacy, lay control of Church property, religious indifference and/or ignorance. After two years of successfully battling abuses in Grenoble such as simony (the selling of church positions) and enforcing rules about clerical celibacy, Hugh wanted to retire to the great Benedictine monastery at Cluny. However, Pope Gregory ordered him to remain in his position as bishop. He was well-known for his inspired preaching and his generosity to the poor.

In 1084, Hugh helped St. Bruno of Cologne and six of his companions found the great Carthusian monastery "La Grande Chartreuse" high in the Alps. They devoted their monastic life to prayer and study and were visited by Hugh often. Hugh adopted the monastic way of life, practiced by the monks at Chartreuse. After many years of illness which he endured in patient silence, St. Hugh died on April 1, 1132 and was canonized two years later by Pope Innocent II.

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