

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Thursday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time**

**Forbearance is listening to  
and comforting those who are dealing with grief.**

## **Revelation 5:1-10**

John had a vision of God with a scroll, written on both sides, in his hand. No one was found worthy to open the scroll. Finally, the Lamb of God, that was sacrificed, was found worthy to open the scroll, which contained the mysteries of the kingdom.

**What a beautiful vision! God has a book (a scroll) that contains the mysteries of his plan and purpose for the universe and that plan and purpose will be worked out in time, in God's time.**

## **Psalm 149**

**Sing to the Lord a new song  
of praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel be glad in their maker,  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their king**

## **Luke 19:41-44**

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem! He had an idea of what would happen to that city! He read the signs of the times!

**Reflect on how Jesus expressed his own feelings and what that means for you!**

If you only had known the path to peace, Jesus exclaimed!

**Share this urgent longing of Jesus for "peace" and pray for peace.**

The Jews were embarking on political maneuvers that ended in the destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70. The tragedy was that if they had only abandoned their dreams of political power and taken the way of Christ, it would not have happened.

**Reflect on what this means for us today in the context of what is happening in our world. Pray about it.**

## **Saint of the Day, November 21 - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and 11 other saints are remembered this day.**

The feast of the presentation of Mary dates back to the 6th century in the East and the 15th century in the West. It is based on an ancient tradition that Mary was taken to the temple in Jerusalem when she was 3-years-old and dedicated to God. A church was built there in honor of this mystery. The Eastern Church was more interested in the feast, but it does appear in the West in the 11th century and became a feast of the universal Church in the 16th century.

We read about Mary's birth and of her presentation in the temple only in apocryphal literature. The Gospel of James (unrecognized as historical) tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was 3 years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless. Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs