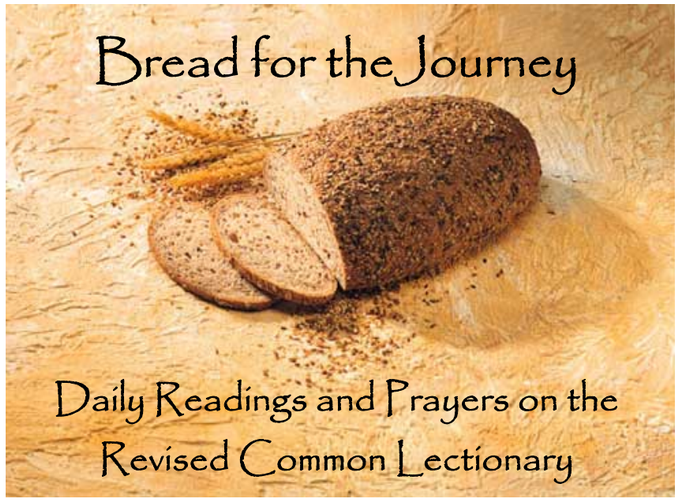

Monday, March 18, 2013

READ - The Psalter: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

The words of the psalmist "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" would be shouted by the people as they joyfully welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem riding on the back of a colt. Jesus, however, would turn out to be "the stone" (vs. 22) who was rejected by the Jewish people; yet he is the cornerstone of our salvation.

REFLECT -

- This psalm expresses thanksgiving and joy to God and foreshadows the way in which God would make our salvation possible through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Have you taken the time to express your gratitude and love to God? Do it now.

PRAY -

Loving God, thank you for all the blessings of life, for sending your son Jesus so that my sins might be forgiven and I may have the hope of eternal life. Amen.

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

READ - Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The prophet speaks here of a servant who is faithful to God, even in the face of great adversity and suffering. The servant listens for God's will, is obedient to God's direction, and is confident that God will have the last word in spite of what may happen to him. Jesus exemplified this role of suffering servant in his obedience to God's will in his last days.

REFLECT -

- Do you listen for God's direction in your life? That direction may come through the words of scripture, circumstances, the words and actions of other people or through a deep knowledge in your heart you gain through prayer. Are you listening? If so, are you being obedient?

PRAY -

Lord, help me to know your will for my life and to be obedient as Jesus did, confident that my faithfulness will glorify you. Amen.

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

READ - The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul expresses here the essence of Jesus' sacrifice for us. Though he is God in flesh, he chose to live humbly and die in a horrific way so that the sins of the whole world might be taken away. Paul reminds the church at Philippi that they must emulate Jesus' humility, love and obedience in the way they live and treat one another.

REFLECT -

- Letting go of ego, pride and selfish desires is something with which we all struggle. Paul says Jesus "emptied himself" (vs. 7) and took the "form of a slave". We must empty ourselves of all the things that keep us separated from God; then find ways to serve God and one another. What must be cleared away in your life for you to do that?

PRAY -

Father, teach me how to clear away the things that prevent me from doing your will. Give me the insight, strength and courage to let them go. Amen.

Thursday, March 21, 2010

READ - The Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the excited crowds who had heard about this prophet, healer, and teacher cheered and threw their cloaks on the ground to prepare his way. Yet they expected a very different kind of Messiah – one who would overthrow the oppressive Roman government and rule as King David did. In only days, they would shout, "Crucify him!"

REFLECT -

- Have you welcomed Jesus completely into your life? Do you embrace his teachings about love, forgiveness and salvation, but back away from his "hard teachings" in the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5 – 7) and his commands about serving the poor in Matthew 25? What must you do to welcome him completely?

PRAY -

O God, help me to make your priorities my priorities. Help me to live into Jesus' commands to love one another with my time and resources. Amen.

Friday, March 22, 2013

ACT -

Focus Verse: Isaiah 50:8b-9

Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me.

Jesus had tremendous courage in facing the terrible suffering that awaited him in Jerusalem. But he was strengthened by the knowledge that he was doing God's will and that God would be with him each step of the way to comfort and sustain him. Make a stand for your faith today. In whatever circumstance in which sin confronts you today, have courage and face it head on. The Lord God will help you.