

Lenten Reflection

Thursday, Third Week of Lent March 23, 2017



By Sister Kathleen Angel, CDP

“I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.” (Entrance)

Wow, what a wonderful promise!

The reading from Jeremiah refers to the conditional covenant of the Old Testament but even here we hear God saying first that God will be ours and we will be the chosen people. We hear again of the complaining and testing of this God by the people. The amazing thing is that the creature can in fact reject the Creator. How marvelous the gifts of God including intellect, free will, and the ultimate gift of the Son who came to show us how to relate to one another and to the God who has such love for all of Creation and all the people.

The response is taken from Psalm 95, which is the invitation to prayer of the liturgy. “Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord, let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, let us joyfully sing psalms.” Even in the midst of Lent, we can be joyful in remembering that we have been so blessed by our God.

The Gospel tells of the absurd comments of the crowd. Can a devil cast out a devil? Were the people jealous or afraid of this man who had such power. Can they turn others against Jesus by demeaning him? Perhaps one of the lessons is that we must be careful, our negative words can lead others away from the truth. That is such a frightening thought. Could we be responsible for turning others against their God? Words, thoughts, and actions are important. Perhaps our abstinence should include these types of responses.

May we “come to possess (our) salvation.”
(Prayer after Communion)

