

Daily Disciplines

Devotion:

We ask thy grace, O God, that we may make a due use of this holy time...Grant that we may be watchful at this time above all others, in avoiding everything that can be injurious to our neighbor, whether in afflicting, or giving scandal, or drawing into sin, or casting any blemish on a reputation; but in all things, O God, may we follow the spirit of charity, being forward in bringing comfort and relief to all, as far as their circumstances shall require, and ours permit. Grant, O Lord, that thus we prepare to meet our redeemer.

--John Goter

Journal Prompt:

In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming, and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will. And in this privileged place we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we and by those who despair more deeply than do we. Look upon your church and its pastors in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue and in this season of yearning which becomes so easily quarrelsome. Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our fingertips. We do not want our several worlds to end. Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case and make all things new.

-- Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*

Prayer Prompt:

The will of God be done by us,
The law of God be kept by us,
Our evil will controlled by us,
Our tongue in cheek be held by us,
Repentance timely made by us,
Christ's passion understood by us,
Each sinful crime be shunned by us,
Much on the *End* be mused by us,
And death be blessed found by us,
With angel's music heard by us.
And God's high praises be sung by us,
For ever and for aye.
--Celtic hymn

Lectio Divina:

Practice lectio divina using:

Once two brothers went to visit an old man. It was not the old man's habit, however, to eat every day. When he saw the two brothers, he welcomed them with joy, and said, "Fasting has its own reward, but

if you eat for the sake of love you satisfy two commandments, for you give up your own will and also fulfill the commandment to refresh others.”

--Desert Wisdom