

## Friday of 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent – Call to the Lord

The Psalm 17 could almost have been written for us today: *In my anguish I called to the Lord, and he heard my voice.* This is a Psalm that Jesus would have prayed often. Despite rejection, despite the hatred, despite the defamation, Jesus placed his trust in the Lord just like Jeremiah. Yet, all along, although rejected by the leaders, many did accept Jesus not only because of his words but because of his actions, his works – his openness and acceptance of all whatever their background or however bad their past. His was an acceptance that allowed people to change. It was as though they felt they had been given permission to change and amend their ways. The gospels this week reveal not only the strength of character of Jesus to stand up against his accusers but show how hatred and the desire to bring someone down blind people to the truth, from an openness of heart and the rejection of any kind of goodness. They become joyless, locked into destruction at all costs. Since this is what hatred does, then let's resolve to always avoid this path. Let us create open hearts which we do every time we reach out to others. We become spreaders of light not darkness, we allow beauty to shine not malice. No wonder we call Jesus the light, the light of the world. He uses us to let his light shine.

*"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."* —Rachel Carson

*"God is the light shining in the midst of darkness, not to deny that there is darkness in the world but to reassure us that we do not have to be afraid of the darkness because darkness will always yield to light."* —Harold S. Kushner

*"There is no glimpse of light without walking the path."* —Peace Pilgrim

*"It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life."* —Joseph Campbell

*"Though my soul may set in darkness, it will rise in perfect light; I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night."* —Sarah Williams

*"The dawn is not distant, nor is the night starless; love is eternal."* —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*"In my deepest wound I saw your glory, and it dazzled me."* —Saint Augustine

AND FINALLY:

- After God created 24 hours of alternating darkness and light, one of the angels asked him, "What are you going to do now?" God said, "I think I'm going to call it **a day.**"
- Three men are on a boat. They have four cigarettes, but nothing to light them with. So they throw a cigarette overboard and the whole boat becomes a cigarette lighter.
- A proud and confident genius makes a bet with an idiot. The genius says, "Hey idiot, every question I ask you that you don't know the answer, you have to give me £5. And if you ask me a question and I can't answer yours I will give you £5,000." The idiot says, "Okay." The genius then asks, "How many continents are there in the world?" The idiot doesn't know and hands over the £5. The idiot says, "Now me ask: what animal stands with two legs but sleeps with three?" The genius tries and searches very hard for the answer but gives up and hands over the £5,000. The genius says,

"Blow it, I lost. By the way, what was the answer to your question?" The idiot hands over £5.