

Lenten Devotional from The Rev. Ethan J. Cole at Calvary Episcopal Church



Tuesday, March 19, 2013

The Feast of St. Joseph

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name." Ephesians 3:14-15

The full text of the daily psalms and readings can be found online at
<http://thelectionary.org/1Lent5.htm>

Today the regular course of the daily office is interrupted to celebrate St. Joseph's Day. We do not know very much about St. Joseph from scripture--mostly everything we know is mentioned in the first chapters of Matthew's gospel, and a few other scattered verses.

Tradition has it that Joseph was a carpenter in Nazareth. He did not put away to disgrace his pregnant fiancée as he might well have done when he found he was not the biological father of her child. He became the guardian of the Lord and of Mary. It is reasonable for us to assume that he had a large role in raising Jesus and teaching him how to be a good and righteous Jew.

Jesus always speaks with great tenderness about his Father in heaven, and I believe that Joseph showed him a human glimpse of the divine love of God the Father, helping Jesus as he grew to understand his mission and ministry.

Today we give thanks that Jesus had a holy and faithful man to teach him and protect him as he grew up.

Prayer: O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

This meditation is based on a verse appointed by the daily lectionary for today. The full citations of all the readings can be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 956.

Please contact me if you would like help in learning how to use the daily lectionary or if you would like to discuss this meditation. ethan.cole@calvaryepiscopal.net

Feel free to forward these to any friends or family who you think may enjoy a Lenten word of encouragement.