



# Be Thou My Vision

2015 Lenten Devotions

Tuesday,  
February 24, 2015

## Journeying to Jerusalem

By Gay Williams from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*. The Pilgrim Press.  
Cleveland, 2007.

Lent—an invitation  
to reflect, to reconsider,  
to slow down, to discover.  
Invited by Jesus  
to join him on the journey.  
Invited to humble ourselves.

Sometimes on that dusty road  
I feel lonely, and am fearful.  
What lies ahead?  
Will I be able to withstand the challenges?  
Will I be enough?  
Will I respond with joy  
to the blessings to be realized?

We are called forth  
out of the winter of ourselves  
to re-imagine our relationship with God.  
On Ash Wednesday we were marked—  
tagged as Christ's own;  
humbled now, readied to be exalted  
as we draw closer to that place called Jerusalem.

As the birds awaken in spring,  
the bulbs and the buds break forth  
and the animals stir, so too we are roused.  
We enter the city triumphantly,  
having discovered that we are whole,  
loved, perfect,  
now, and always.

## **Prayer:**

Lord,

I'm not always eager to do your will.

I'd often much rather do my own will.

Please be with me on this Lenten journey

and help me to remember

that your own spirit can guide me

in the right direction.

I want to "fix" my weaknesses

but the task seems overwhelming.

But I know that with your help,

anything can be done.

With a grateful heart,

I acknowledge your love

and know that without you,

I can do nothing.

(From Praying Lent: An Online Ministry of Creighton University)

## **Job 5:8-16**

"As for me, I would seek God,

and to God I would commit my cause.

He does great things and unsearchable,

marvelous things without number.

He gives rain on the earth

and sends waters on the fields;

he sets on high those who are lowly,

and those who mourn are lifted to safety.

He frustrates the devices of the crafty,

so that their hands achieve no success.

He takes the wise in their own craftiness;

and the schemes of the wily are brought to a quick end.

They meet with darkness in the daytime,

and grope at noonday as in the night.

But he saves the needy from the sword of their mouth,

from the hand of the mighty.

So the poor have hope,

and injustice shuts its mouth."

### **1 Peter 3:8-18a**

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. For

“Those who desire life

and desire to see good days,

let them keep their tongues from evil

and their lips from speaking deceit;

let them turn away from evil and do good;

let them seek peace and pursue it.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,