

Monday in Holy Week

Thought: To desire death is one of the fruits of the love of God. When a soul is burning with the fire of divine love she wishes to see and possess her Well-Beloved. To attain to this we must pass through “the horrors of the agony and death, but love is stronger than death.” So the Saints repeat the groanings of St. Paul: “I desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ.” This desire is also that of the friends of the Sacred Heart. When shall it be given us to go to sleep on the Lord’s breast? The decree is unalterable: we must first die. Well, then, I will die and see my adored Lord, and from henceforth I shall be entirely His.

This desire was very ardent in Gertrude, which her secretary tells us was the fruit of her great confidence in our Lord; nevertheless, in conformity with the divine will, she was equally ready either to live or to die; by death she hoped for eternal blessedness, and by a longer life she hoped to give greater glory to God. -*The Love of the Sacred Heart*

Prayer: Recite the fifth Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary for the grace of Final Perseverance. If you are so inclined, pray another decade for the Final Perseverance of your loved ones.

Tuesday in Holy Week

Thought: Not content with devoutly contemplating our Lord’s Passion, Gertrude wished to make Him some return, and one Good Friday received from Him the following instruction, in answer to her request that

He would teach her how she might in some way repay Him for all He had suffered for her: “Not to shrink from pain or trouble when it is a question of rescuing another from sin, makes up to Me for My death for man’s salvation; and returning a meek answer to reproaches or unkindness, is as pleasing to Me as the act of those who took My Body down from the cross.”

-*St. Gertrude the Great*

Practice: Form your own resolution based on what you just read. Put it into practice today.

Spyn Wednesday

Thought: Before the following Maundy Thursday Gertrude had urged many others to beg our Lord, through the mystery of His abasement in washing the feet of His Apostles, to purify their hearts and affections as a preparation for receiving Him in Holy Communion. As she was kneeling at prayer it was made known to her that her faults and those of all who had acted according to her advice were completely effaced.

Prayer: Sacred Heart of Jesus, in preparation for tomorrow’s Holy Communion, I beseech Thee, through Your abasement in washing the feet of Thine Apostles, to purify my heart and affections so that I might become a worthy dwelling place for Thee.

Holy Thursday

Thought: After her Communion, as she recollected herself interiorly, our Lord ap-

peared to her under the form of a pelican, as it is usually represented, piercing its heart with its beak. Marveling at this, she said: “My Lord, what wouldst Thou teach me by this vision?” “I wish,” replied our Lord, “that you would consider the excess of love which obliges Me to present you with such a gift; for after having thus given Myself, I would rather remain dead in the tomb, so to speak, than deprive a soul who loves Me of the fruit of my liberality. Consider, also, that even as the blood which comes from the heart of the pelican gives life to its little ones, so also the soul whom I nourish with the Divine Food which I present to it, receives a life which will never end.”

Prayer which Our Lord taught St. Gertrude: Behold, O Lord, I, a vile sinner, poor and guilty and unworthy, come unto Thee, the overflowing abyss of compassion, that I may be washed from every stain and filled with every grace.

Good Friday

Thought: Another practice taught to Gertrude by our Lord was to turn frequently towards a crucifix, and in spirit to hear Christ speaking from it thus: “Behold how, for your love, I have been fastened to the cross, despised, naked, torn; My Body covered with wounds; My bones dislocated. Yet My Heart is so eager for your love that, were it necessary for your salvation, I would suffer again for you alone all that I bore for the sins of the whole world.”

The saint also tells us that no one can even look at a crucifix without a particular

grace arranged by God's Providence, nor can anyone gaze on Christ crucified without receiving thereby some spiritual benefit. In like manner, no one, however feeble his devotion, fails to be regarded favorably by our Lord, so long as he makes an effort to keep in mind the memory of His Sacred Passion.

-St. Gertrude the Great

Practice: Look prayerfully upon the crucifix. Graces are there for the taking. "Lord Jesus Crucified, have mercy on us!"

Holy Saturday

Thought: "Suppose," our Lord said to Gertrude, "that a king is by his justice obliged to keep some of his greatest friends in prison, though he is longing to set them free. Full of this desire, and yet seeing that of themselves they can do nothing, this king would accept with joy from any of his courtiers what was necessary to pay their debt and give them their liberty. In the same way I receive all that is offered Me for the deliverance of the souls in purgatory which I have redeemed by the shedding of My precious Blood and by My death. I thus have an opportunity to deliver them from their sufferings and to conduct them to the joys prepared for them from all eternity."

Prayer: O most compassionate Jesus, have mercy on the souls detained in purgatory, for whose redemption Thou didst take upon Thee our nature and endure a bitter death. Mercifully hear their groanings, look with pity on the tears which they now shed before Thee, and by virtue of Thy Passion release

them from the pains due unto their sins. O most pitiful Jesus, let Thy precious Blood reach down into purgatory, and refresh and revive the captive souls which suffer there. Stretch forth unto them Thy strong right hand, and bring them forth into the place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

-Prayers of St. Gertrude &c.

Easter Sunday

Thought: Our Lord said in the Gospel that there was more joy in heaven over the conversion of one sinner than over the perseverance of ninety-nine just. By this He wished to manifest the goodness of His Sacred Heart towards sinners and the great joy He feels when we leave sin to return to Him. But who will describe to us the delight of His divine Heart when some privileged soul leaves the earth and enters heaven? "Then," says St. Gertrude, "the Heart of Jesus pours itself over the whole earth and His graces fall like sweet dew, so that no just request rises to heaven without being granted."

-The Love of the Sacred Heart

Prayer: Lord Jesus, after having made Thy Sacred Heart our treasure here on earth, it will also be our eternal happiness in heaven. We earnestly beg that it may be our paradise. Mayest Thou say to us those words spoken to a soul devoted to Thee: "Search through heaven, and if thou dost find anything thou desirest in any Saint, take it from My divine Heart."



Lent with St. Gertrude the Great



Daily Thoughts and Prayers Lent 2026

Daily short morning offering for Lent:
"Lord, I offer Thee my actions through Thy only Son, in the power of the Holy Ghost, for Thy eternal glory." – St. Gertrude