

## Lenten Devotional March 20, 2018

### Scripture

#### Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

<sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God,

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

### Devotional

#### Lori Arnold, Continuing Education Coordinator

It is the 35<sup>th</sup> day of the 40 days of Lent. Lent—a period of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter that is to be a parallel reminder of the time that Jesus spent in the desert. I have been pondering how Jesus may have felt on his 35<sup>th</sup> day in the desert. Did he know that his time there would end in five more days? And, if he did, was there relief in his heart because the time of being in the desert was almost at an end? Or was it sadness because of what he would face upon returning to the city? Or might it have been joy because all that would come to pass during and after Holy Week would mean a new birth for all people and hope for each new morning. When we carefully consider Psalm 146 as a prayer Jesus may have prayed on that 35<sup>th</sup> day in the desert, I think we know that praise was on his lips and joy was in his heart. May it be so for us as well.

### Prayer

Dear Creator of all that we survey, may we open our eyes and lift up our voices for the gifts bestowed upon us. And may we praise the Lord for the one true gift of Jesus. Let us move through this day with trust and happiness in the Lord. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.