

## Lent Devotional April 14, 2019

### SCRIPTURE

#### Psalm 42

- <sup>1</sup> As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.
- <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold  
the face of God?
- <sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while people say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”
- <sup>4</sup> These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng,  
and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping festival.
- <sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help <sup>6</sup>and my God.  
My soul is cast down within me;  
therefore I remember you  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.
- <sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep  
at the thunder of your cataracts;  
all your waves and your billows  
have gone over me.
- <sup>8</sup> By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.
- <sup>9</sup> I say to God, my rock,  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I walk about mournfully  
because the enemy oppresses me?”
- <sup>10</sup> As with a deadly wound in my body,  
my adversaries taunt me,  
while they say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”
- <sup>11</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.

## **DEVOTIONAL**

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As we walk through this season of Lent we are reminded of our need for God. In our penitence we are reminded not only of God's faithfulness but also of our dependence on God. Yet sometimes we feel alone—sometimes as we face our struggles God seems absent. They ask, "Where is your God?" We cry out in despair from yearning to feel the presence of the Lord again, from knowing our need for our rock. We ask ourselves, "Where is *my* God?" In our longing, we know God is constant. In our anguish, we know the day will come when we will again rejoice in the Lord. "Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my help and my God." Our souls long for healing, peace, and comfort from the Lord—our rock in our distress. Because we know, in truth, that a time is coming when we will again praise the Lord, we can have hope in God even in the midst of our despair.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, you are our rock. You are our foundation in times of darkness, and we know we can trust in you. Yet sometimes we cannot feel your presence. Give us strength to praise you and hope in you when we do not have the strength on our own. Meet us in our despair, gracious God, and hear us when we cry out. You are the one our souls long for. We praise and pray to you now in your Holy name. Amen.