

## **Lent Devotional April 11, 2020**

### **Scripture**

Romans 8:1-11

*1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.*

### **Devotional**

#### **The Rev. James F. Reese '49, Specialized Ministry (2003)**

In almost every listing of “Great Chapters of the Bible” you will find Romans 8:1-39. For many, that is because of the words found in verses 31-39; but the words in verses 1-11 also contribute to making this chapter a great one. Consider verses 2-4:

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

These words to followers of Jesus Christ are words of prayer, benefits, and liberation telling us that every day God has done nothing less than send his own son in the flesh to deal with our sin. Now, salvation has taken place through Jesus. We have been given freedom.

We have freedom from the Law thanks to the supremacy of the Spirit. The path from justification to glorification is one of the fruits of the Spirit. We walk and live on this path thanks to Jesus Christ. We, who once were enveloped in fatal disobedience from Adam's sin, are now wrapped in the goodness of Jesus.

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, Giver of all good gifts, enable us to give goodness and loving kindness to all people through the supremacy of the Spirit. Let your Spirit raise up our hearts that we may glorify you. Let each of us begin, continue, and end in your care. Amen.