Morning Devotional

Diocesan Center

May 2, 2023

**Pray**

Let us learn, pang-by-pang,

O Lord, how our suffering –

while it never in this life

completely ceases – may serve like stitchings,

binding us ever tighter to you.

**Read** *James 1:2-5*

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

**Reflect** *Benedicta Ward*

Abba Poemen said of Abba John the Dwarf that he had prayed God to take his passions away from him so that he might become free from care. He went and told an old man this: ‘I find myself in peace, without an enemy,’ he said. The old man said to him, ‘Go, beseech God to stir up warfare so that you may regain the affliction and humility that you used to have, for it is by warfare that the soul makes progress.’ So he besought God and when warfare came, he no longer prayed that it might be taken away, but said, ‘Lord, give me strength for the fight.’

*You are invited to share your thoughts regarding these readings.*

**Music**

A Kiss from Above from Uplifitng Stories

by Christopher Salt and John Rowcroft

**Pray**

We thank you Lord for granting us strength and grace

sufficient for the number of our days;

be with us as we move through the unfolding of our time

in humble obedience to your will,

in sensitivity to your Spirit,

and in joyful expectation of your kingdom.

Illuminate our hearts, our paths, and our vision

as we go along Your Way. Amen.

**Sources**

*Opening Prayer: adapted from Every Moment Holy Volume II,* © 2021 *Douglas McKelvey*

Reflection: Colman Readings, Celtic Daily Prayer Book 2 © 2015 The Northumbria Community Trust

*Closing Prayer: adapted from The Hours: Midday, Every Moment Holy Volume I,* © 2019 *Douglas McKelvey*