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10 THURSDAY

THURSDAY after Ash Wednesday

Deut. 30: 15-20

Ps 1: 1-4, 6

Luke 9: 22 – 25

This second day of Lent, the scripture readings leave no doubt that Lent is a very serious business. It calls me back to Christian basics, to life-choices about what life is for, what it means, what's important. As a preparation-time for the celebration of Easter, Lent invites me to re-visit, to re-new, the life-journey and faith-journey I've made in becoming a follower of Jesus. Today the gospel puts me at the point where Jesus starts telling His disciples, and telling me, about His "way". It's a way that would lead Him through suffering, rejection, even violent death, but would lead to resurrection and full life with God. Sharing His way is a choice that seems hard for human nature, but it's a choice of love, wanting to be a follower, to be with Him: it's the way I've already chosen. The start of Lent reminds me of this cross-roads --- choosing which road to take, life or death, blessing or curse. It's an invitation to confirm again, remind me if maybe I've tended to forget. There are always choices to be made in life: may I make them in the spirit of wanting above all the glory of God and the fulfillment of His will, in the company of Jesus on His way. At the cross-roads, one road is the way of the cross, but it leads over the hill and beyond what I can see. Especially in this time of Lent, Lord, may everything I do begin with your inspiration, be carried on with your help, and reach its fulfillment under your guidance.

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