

## **THE LESSONS APPOINTED FOR USE ON SATURDAY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT**

Deuteronomy 26:16–19

Matthew 5:43–48

Psalms 119:1–8

*Preface of Lent*

### **THE COLLECT**

O God, by your Word you marvelously carry out the work of reconciliation: Grant that in our Lenten fast we may be devoted to you with all our hearts, and united with one another in prayer and holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **OLD TESTAMENT: DEUTERONOMY 26:16–19**

This very day the Lord your God is commanding you to observe these statutes and ordinances; so observe them diligently with all your heart and with all your soul. Today you have obtained the Lord's agreement: to be your God; and for you to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, and his ordinances, and to obey him. Today the Lord has obtained your agreement: to be his treasured people, as he promised you, and to keep his commandments; for him to set you high above all nations that he has made, in praise and in fame and in honor; and for you to be a people holy to the Lord your God, as he promised.

## **PSALM 119:1–8**

1. Happy are they whose way is blameless, \*  
who walk in the law of the Lord!
2. Happy are they who observe his decrees \*  
and seek him with all their hearts!
3. Who never do any wrong, \*  
but always walk in his ways.
4. You laid down your commandments, \*  
that we should fully keep them.
5. Oh, that my ways were made so direct \*  
that I might keep your statutes!
6. Then I should not be put to shame, \*  
when I regard all your commandments.
7. I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \*  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
8. I will keep your statutes; \*  
do not utterly forsake me.

## **THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:43–48**

Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers

and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

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