The following is a fitting devotion for our Lenten observance (sent in by Jim & Karen Whiting of Connecticut):



**In God's cup of salvation!**

(Alexander Smellie, "The Hour of Silence" 1899)

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. (Isaiah 55:1)

**In God's cup of salvation**, I discover all that I can crave! There is no deficiency here, and no disappointment.

There is **water** in this cup--the water of *spiritual life.* I am dying of thirst in the desert--the desert of my sin and guilt. But He puts the cup to my lips, and I live. It brings me . . .

* full and free pardon,
* the remission of all my transgressions,
* His own eternal favor and fellowship,
* the assurance that He is pacified toward me!

There is **milk** in this cup--the milk of *spiritual nourishment.* I am frail and powerless . . .

* against temptation,
* against my besetting and beguiling iniquities,
* against the *world* and the *flesh* and the *devil*.

But He puts the cup to my lips, and I am strong. My sanctification is there. His own Holy Spirit is there. I am more than a conqueror now. My weakness, casting itself upon Him--is exchanged for His mightiness!

There is **wine** in this cup--the wine of *spiritual joy.* I am restless, uneasy, disillusioned, troubled. My heart has no deep and abiding contentment. I wander into fruitless seedbeds of sorrow, with a proud dejectedness and a cheerless weariness. But He puts the wine-cup to my lips, and I rejoice. For there is the peace of God here, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the victory over the world, and the sure and invincible hope of glory!

*Water, milk, wine*--and I may have them, now and here, without money and without price! I am at the source of every gracious and glorious thing; and my part is simply to receive my Lord's munificence, and to say farewell to my hunger and thirst, and to be eternally satisfied!