# The Fifth Tuesday of the Great Fast

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*"The Lord God took Abraham outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. In the same way shall your descendants be.' Abraham put his faith in the Lord, Who credited it to him as an act of righteousness."*

Genesis 15:5-6

In our pilgrimage of life, we try so hard to be faithful servants of God, but there are many times when we waiver and doubt that God is really in charge of our existence. During the Great Fast we have the opportunity to pause and reflect upon our lives. And almost wherever we turn in the Holy Bible, we are bound to find the consoling evidence that God does watch over us with utmost concern: "Here comes the Lord God with power, ...like a shepherd, He feeds His flock; in His arms, He gathers the lambs, carrying them in His bosom and leading the ewes with care." *(Isaiah 40:10-11)* As the Holy Prophet Isaiah further instructs us, we discover that the idols which we fashion from gold or silver can in no way be compared to the Lord God Who "brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing."

God loves us, and He intimately directs our lives, placing us in the proper place at the right time in order to do our part of bringing His holy will to fruition. But we must love God in return. Help us, O Lord, to recognize what it is that You want us to do. When we obviate You in favor of our desires, that is the time when disaster will surely follow. It is not You Who lays a burden of unhappiness upon us. Rather, we fashion our own troubles whenever we begin to create our own idols.

Yes, there are times when the weights of life rest heavy on our shoulders, and we cannot discern any reason why we deserve such pain. Is it not because You have allowed us such fires of purification in order that we might become more beautiful vessels of Your will? Help us to recognize these times as opportunities for growth. Take away our human sight, and give us Your divine sight so that we can see all these things in perspective for what they truly are.

How many times have we experienced the delight of being Your instrument? How many more times have we suffered because we did what we wanted to do? Let us never place blame for our folly upon You. Our greatest moments of happiness have been those times spent accomplishing Your will: "A glad heart lights up the face.... There is joy for a man in his utterance.... a lighthearted man has a continual feast." *(Proverbs 15:13,23)* Our hearts can be light only when they are filled with Your light. Truly, life with You is a banquet!

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 40:18-31**
**Genesis 15:1-15**
**Proverbs 15:7-19**