



# THE ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

# CALL

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## Thy Will Be Done



The Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

**T**HY WILL BE DONE," we pray in the Lord's Prayer. Edith Stein, the German-Jewish convert to Christianity and Carmelite nun who died in Auschwitz, wrote that, "Thy will be done," must be the guideline for Christian living. She said these words should regulate the day from morning to evening, the course of the year, and our entire lives. If they do, she said, "then the flood of divine love will be poured into your heart until it overflows and becomes fruitful until all the ends of the earth."

And we know that even Jesus needed to confront this challenge of whose will to follow before he set out on his public ministry. The Gospels tell us that as soon as John baptized him, Jesus went out into the wilderness to confront his own demons before he called his first disciples

and embarked on his ministry. The same is true for all Christians in our own life journeys. Day by day we are challenged to ensure it is God's will that guides our lives and not something or somebody else's will. God's will is not about amassing power or control, gaining status or high reputation, or striving to fulfill our parents' impossible expectations of us (however old we may be), or our own.

The church gives us the gift of the Holy Season of Lent to walk in Christ's steps and ask, *whose will am I doing in my life?* While in the popular mind, Lent is about "giving up things," it is above all about spiritual reflection and holding one's life up in the mirror as Jesus did. It is about undertaking a deep, honest and searching moral inventory of the forces that are guiding our lives. Lent challenges us to ask, *whose will am I serving in my priorities and the way I use my time, talent and treasure?* It is about identifying our own greatest temptations as Jesus did.

But we must not think of the forty days of Lent as a "quick fix" scheme. In his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey warns us against looking for quick fix schemes that involve no work if we want to change our habits and become the effective people God wishes us to be. The season of Lent provides us with a time for the first steps in this process.

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