

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer to God our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys.

We begin by saying

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in your richly

Colossians 3.15-, 16

The Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvellous works.

Glory in his holy name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; *
his judgements prevail in all the world.

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Psalm 105.1-7

The Gospel Reading

We continue with the gospel reading and the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the readings have to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?

‘Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matthew 10.1-7

The Reflection

Paul MacLean

I have been watching the little section on the 10 pm CBC National News, entitled ‘Lives Remembered.’ It’s a very touching remembrance of individuals who have lost their lives to COVID-19, usually given by a family member or close friend. These personal accounts bring humanity to the experience of loss felt by so many thousands, an experience which is so often rendered as simply the latest daily statistics. All of these people who died were loved and their lives mattered.

And so, there was the story of Derrick. Derrick had cerebral palsy and had to be cared for by his family. He couldn't communicate with words, but, as his mother said, he had the most wonderful smile. As she went on to describe his love of the water, the stimulating trip of a life time to Jamaica, and his loud response to solos in church I could sense the love and affection that Derrick had inspired in his family and friends. As his mother put it, 'the joyful times outweighed the hard times.' She concluded by saying that although they will all miss Derrick, she can accept his death because she knows that he is now at peace in the arms of his heavenly Father, 'and that's good enough for me.'

I thought particularly of Derrick as I read the Gospel for today. Here we have Matthew's account of a very significant program in the ministry of Jesus - the mission of the 12, in which the disciples, now called apostles, are sent out to towns and villages to visit homes and to perform acts of healing. We have accounts of this program in Mark and Luke as well, and Luke has a second version in which the mission is entrusted to 70 of Jesus' followers. Those on the mission travel light, no extra sandals or cloaks, and they rely on the hospitality of those they are visiting to survive. The mission seems to have two elements: the bringing of healing by those who have nothing or very little and the offering of hospitality by those who have a home and enough food for themselves and to share. The mission seems to be summed up in the words, 'Peace be to this house.' The Kingdom of God, the Good News, is reconciliation.

Now, I can conceive of myself as a householder and offering hospitality, sharing my blessings and earthly goods with people who do not have these things, through such programs as the Common Table and the Refugee Settlement. But I was challenged by the other side of the equation: the people who have nothing or very little, bring healing to those who already have enough, when they

are invited into their homes and lives. They create peace. What is the healing I need? Can I conceive of this healing coming from someone who has nothing or very little?

And that is when I remembered listening to the story of Derrick, and how through his cerebral palsy and wonderful smile he brought joy to his family and friends, and how his mother was at peace with his death.

So, I thought of the two elements of God's Kingdom. How, on the one hand, people like me who have many blessings and enough material goods, are called as Jesus' disciples to offer hospitality and to share with those who have nothing or very little, whether that be through acts of generosity or more extended efforts to relieve suffering and provide housing affordable for everyone. How, on the other hand, people like me also are in need of healing, perhaps simply because it is easy to be cut off from those of God's people who have very little in this world's terms. The healing, the peace, comes from accepting that we too are in need, and that unexpected joy and wonderful smiles come from inviting the unlikely harbingers of God's Kingdom into our lives.

When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle

The Canticle ~ A Song of the Lord's Anointed

The Lord has anointed me
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ♦
because he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, ♦
to bind up the broken-hearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives, ♦
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, ♦
to comfort all who mourn,
To give them a garland instead of ashes, ♦
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit,
That they may be called oaks of righteousness, ♦
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.
For as the earth puts forth her blossom, ♦
and as seeds in the garden spring up,
So shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise ♦
blossom before all the nations.
You shall be called priests of the Lord; ♦
they shall speak of you as ministers of our God.

Isaiah 61.1-3, 11, 6a

We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions) and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.

The Intercessions

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, **Lord, have mercy.**

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We conclude our prayers

O Lord our God,
grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
that so desiring, we may seek and find you;
and so finding, may love you;
and so loving, may hate those sins from which
you have delivered us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

We conclude

May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace.
Amen. Alleluia.

Credits:

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