

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, November 25, 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

Rejoice always, pray constantly; in everything give thanks for
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.

Open our lips, O Lord;
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The First Reading

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended.

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

'Great and amazing are your deeds,

Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,

King of the nations!

Lord, who will not fear

and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your judgements have been revealed.'

Revelation 15.1-4

The Psalm

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvellous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to
the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98

The Gospel Reading

Then Jesus said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Luke 21.10-19

We continue with the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the reading has 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?

The Reflection *O Sing to the Lord a New Song*

Katy Waugh

It's not very often that I choose to preach on the psalm appointed for the day. But when I was looking over the lessons for the day, I practically laughed out loud...OK I did...when I read the opening lines to Psalm 98.

“ O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvellous things.”

What a great line to read early in the morning during our eighth month of weathering through a pandemic!

This is why I love the psalms so much. In my thirty odd years of reading one every morning I have never been disappointed. There is always one word, one line, one thought that stops me in my tracks and gives me pause to be still and to listen for what these ancients have to say to me in my time on any particular day.

I know many people would ask what these songs from three or four thousand years ago, set distinctly in the culture of ancient Israel, have to do with us today? These people have a point but, my answer would be this. These psalms were written by ordinary people whose times were filled with the same issues that challenge, comfort and confound us today. Their complaints, joys and celebrations are ours as well. They were trying to make sense of their world and their own souls just as we try to make sense of ours.

We hear them complaining, rejoicing, wondering at the beauty of the world and we see them being annoyed at the habits of their neighbours, or green with envy, or pale with fear. Sometimes they are trusting in God and at other times full of doubt. And sometimes they have to cast their minds way back in time to be reminded of when it was that God helped them. They are so human and not afraid to have honest conversations with God.

So when you read the words from this morning's psalm, which is a hymn of praise to God for all the good things in our lives, does it stop you in your tracks? I hope so! Does it make you stop listening to the latest news of soaring numbers of new cases of the virus, or the recent lock down of ever more businesses, let alone the apocalyptic news from south of the border?

I am not saying that reading and praying these ancient psalms will change the current realities of our world but, I am saying that if we take the time to step away from our devices that bombard us with bad news, and instead listen for the good news of God's unending

love and creativity, we may just press pause or reset on our breathing and our vision.

And if you do not find that reading these ancient psalms help you to “sing a new song” find some other things that do. Go outside and look at the trees or the birds or the squirrels. Go for a walk and observe all the colourful masks people have invented. Watch kids learning to skateboard. Or, sit in a room and listen to good music or read poetry, or light a candle and just be quiet...or....or....or.

I will leave you with a version of some of the words of Psalm 98 as found in a book by Nan Merrill called Psalms for Praying which I use every day.

“O sing to the Beloved a new song
for Love has done marvelous things!
By the strength of your Indwelling Presence,
we too are called to do great things;
we are free through Love's forgiveness and truth.

.....

Let the waters clap their hands;
let the hills ring out with joy
before the Beloved, who radiates Love
to all the earth.”

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

The Canticle ~ You Are God

You are God: we praise you;
you are the Lord: we acclaim you;
you are the eternal Father:
all creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of Glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

*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, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,
our schools and young people,
and all in any kind of need or distress:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

We conclude our prayers

Support us, Lord, all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes
the busy world is hushed the fever of life is over,
and our work done;
then Lord, in your mercy, give us safe lodging,
a holy rest and peace at the last. 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 bless the work of our hands.
Amen.

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The Concluding Sentence are found in *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*. © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

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