

Daily Prayer

Feria in Eastertide

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

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 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

Lord, open our lips,

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever.

The First Reading

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them

to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.

Acts 15.1-6

The Psalm

I was glad when they said to me, *

"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Now our feet are standing *

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *

that is at unity with itself.

To which the tribes go up,

the tribes of the Lord, *

the assembly of Israel,

to praise the name of the Lord.

For there are the thrones of judgement, *

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *

"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls *

and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions' sake, *

I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, *

I will seek to do you good.

Psalm 122

The Gospel Reading

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

John 15.1-8

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

Abide in Me

Katy Waugh

“Abide in me as I abide in you.

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” John 15:4

Abide in me is one of the best invitations Jesus ever offers. (Well, Come and have breakfast is pretty good too. But that's for another day!) Abide means to wait, to stay with, and to remain true to. This is a wonderful invitation anytime, but during the seemingly never-ending days of this pandemic, I find it to be particularly attractive. I need to be reminded that I am not alone and that really I am like fruit that can not flourish if it is removed from the vine. Abiding with a God who loves me and all of creation, and who promises to

never leave me, seems like a wonderful safe haven in which to weather out all the storms which life throws in our paths, but no more so than now in this time of unprecedented unease and danger. The next time someone asks you how you are doing, I dare you to say, "not too badly thanks! I'm abiding in God "Of course, that answer does not get to the depths of the relationship, but it may cause us to stop and wonder or try to envision what we can do to set the scene on a daily basis so we do find ourselves staying with God.

One of my answers would be this. Find somewhere slightly removed from whatever else is going on in your space. Sit down or gaze out a window or light a candle or put some music on or...or...open your eyes early in the morning or close your eyes late at night as you are lying in bed and offer this prayer by Kathleen Fischer called Praying in the Dark. This is one of my very favourites of all time. I have mentioned it to you often. It has been a companion to me for years and during these past fifteen months has become one of the vines which is anchoring me.

Merciful God, you tell us not to be afraid,
for even in the darkest valley,
you will be with us.

Abide with me.
Dusk falls,
and shadows deepen,
the light departs.
Abide with me.

Give me hope.
Despair descends,
my options are few,
no path seems clear.
Give me hope.

Lift me up.
Courage falters,
my faith weakens,
my reserves fail.
Lift me up.

Light my way.
Vision dims,
my fear builds,
signposts vanish.
Light my way.

Abide with me.
Give me hope.
Lift me up.
Light my way.

In these upcoming months among all the uncertainty, scary statistics, name calling and blaming that is going on around us, I hope we can take time to breathe and to feel God's presence with us and to let that presence wrap around our branches so that we remain safely secured to the unbreakable vine.

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

The Canticle ~ A Song of Humility

Come, let us return to the Lord ♦
who has torn us and will heal us.

God has stricken us ♦
and will bind up our wounds.

After two days, he will revive us, ♦
and on the third day will raise us up,
that we may live in his presence.

Let us strive to know the Lord; ♦
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.
He will come to us like the showers, ♦
like the spring rains that water the earth.
'O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? ♦
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?
'Your love for me is like the morning mist, ♦
like the dew that goes early away.
'Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, ♦
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
'For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, ♦
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.'

Hosea 6.1-6

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

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying,
"Hear us, Lord of glory!"

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter,
let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the
earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the
weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and
strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,
that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us
pray to the Lord.

Hear us, Lord of glory!

Our prayers conclude

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
Give us grace to love one another
and walk in the way of his commandments,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

[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 the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Credits:

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