

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, July 28, 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

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

The First Reading

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Exodus 34.29-35

The Psalm

The Lord is king;
let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the Cherubim;
let the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.

Let them confess his name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

“O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his name, *
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave
them.

“O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.”

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

The Gospel Reading

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13.44-46

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

Paul MacLean

We've all seen a child's face lit up with joy, as he or she opens a present, runs to welcome a parent, or dashes about getting soaked by a sprinkler in the garden. A shining face, expressive of complete transport into the moment.

Jesus tells us that we have to accept the Kingdom of God like a child, or we will not enter it. Today we listen to two short parables that are about adults being transported by discoveries as if they were children. These adults have each been on a quest that has driven their lives (at least this is true for the pearl merchant). Jesus picks out that moment when suddenly they discover not just the end of their quest, but something well beyond their imaginings. They have that moment of being lit up with joy, just like a child. However, they then take the next step to secure the treasure and the magnificent pearl, by sacrificing everything. This is the response of an adult.

This next step shows that they are not motivated by avarice and the desire to hoard. What they have found is something that lights up

their lives and requires total commitment to follow through. We are reminded of the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain with Moses and Elijah, where 'his face shone like the sun'. This momentary vision of God's glory is followed by the descent from the mountain, the prediction of suffering, and the curing of a boy afflicted with a demon. We need those moments of joy, whether in ourselves or sharing in the joy of others, to carry us through what needs to be done in order to realize God's kingdom in our own time and place.

I remember years ago attending a 'teach in' at the University of Toronto. One of the speakers was Bishop Trevor Huddleston, a leader in the fight against apartheid in South Africa, who was motivated by the profound and unshakable conviction that we are all made in the image of God. As he spoke we could feel in his words the shining faces of the people he cared about, and that they should be free to express their joy and live with their full humanity. His own face radiated that joy and conviction as he spoke. On the Sunday morning, he presided at the eucharist at St Thomas' Huron St, and people later spoke of his shining face. He had found the pearl of great price and the inestimable treasure in the lives of the people he served. We are invited to do the same.

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

The Canticle ~ A Song of Peace

*Spirit of God, teach us your ways,
that we may walk in the paths of peace.*

Come, let us go up to the mountain of God, ♦
to the house of the God of Jacob;

That God may teach us his ways, ♦
and that we may walk in his paths.

For the law shall go out from Zion, ♦
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

God shall judge between the nations, ♦
and shall mediate for many peoples.

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, ♦
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, ♦
neither shall they learn war any more.

O people of Jacob, come: ♦
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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

*Spirit of God, teach us your ways,
that we may walk in the paths of peace.*

Isaiah 2.3-5

*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 give thanks to God,
the God of all peoples of the earth.
For the colour and forms of your creation
and our place within it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For our daily food,
and for those whose work and skill
bring your good gifts to us,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts;
for insight and imagination,
for the skills of research
which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,
and their variety and dependability;
for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For new hope and strength in our communities,
especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you,
we bring our thanks, good Lord;
your mercy endures for ever.

For all in whose lives we see
goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility,
and all the fruit of the Spirit,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the life we have been given,
and for all those whom you have given us to share it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

Our prayers conclude

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,

that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal,
that we lose not the things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and 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 God grant to the world justice, truth and peace.
Amen.

Credits:

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