

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, October 20, 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

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

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

The First Reading

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Romans 6.12-18

The Psalm

If the Lord himself had not been on our side, ♦
now may Israel say;

If the Lord had not been on our side, ♦
when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us alive ♦
when their anger burned against us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over our soul; ♦
over our soul would have swept the raging waters.

But blessed be the Lord ♦
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

Our soul has escaped
as a bird from the snare of the fowler; ♦
the snare is broken and we are delivered.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, ♦
who has made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124

The Gospel Reading

Jesus said, 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?' And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell

you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, "My master is delayed in coming", and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

Luke 12.39-48

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

Katy Waugh

Today's psalm is one of fifteen that has been grouped in a category called The Songs of Ascent. They have been sung for centuries by Jewish pilgrims as they climbed up the hills to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the high holidays or festivals of their faith. Having made a pilgrimage myself to that city, I can attest to the fact that you indeed do have to climb up to get to the pinnacle where the ancient temple stood. I can well imagine singing these familiar psalms on that journey. Listen to the words as transliterated by Nan Merrill whose book called Praying the Psalms has been my daily companion for thirty years.

"If it were not for You, O Beloved,
You who make all things new,
Fear and chaos would reign

in every heart; in You
will I trust forever.

When doubt threatens to overwhelm
and separate me,
when anger makes me blind,
Then You, O Merciful One, are
ever-ready
to Awaken the holy, the sacred
within me;
Then do your Living Streams of Grace enfold me.

Blessed are You, who are a very
Presence to us,
a comfort to trouble hearts!
Grant us the strength of eagle wings,
the courage to soar to new heights!
Break within us the bonds of fear
that we may live with love!

Our guidance comes from You,
O Counsellor,
Blessed are You, O Giver of Life!
Beloved of my heart!"

Wow! No wonder these songs have endured throughout the ages !
If you read the words of this one again you can laugh out loud or
weep about how apt it is for us in our present day journey through
Covid. Take a moment and re read it slowly and let the words flow
over you. Sit for a moment and see which word or phrase seems to
stick with you and then meditate or pray with that thought. The
fancy word for this is Lectio Divina, but I call it praying the psalms.

As a member of a Benedictine community The Society of St. John
the Evangelist, I have been praying a different psalm every morning

for years. And, no matter what the situation, I have found that one or two words have always captured my attention. Sometimes I almost laugh out loud at how unsubtle these nudges from God are. Some times I cry in relief that whatever I have been fearing most has been named. And, I always come away thankful that this all loving God is with me on this daily journey which can often seem lonely.

So this week why not turn off the endless cycle of news, statistics about who has been vaccinated and who has not. Close yourself off from the political pundits and hate mongers who want you to hear only one side of the story, Take some time to be with those early Jewish pilgrims as they climbed up to the holy city confidently singing these ancient psalms. And remember that only God can make all things new.

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

The Canticle ~ A Song of Repentance

*Tell the good news of Jesus the Christ
to all who are searching for redemption.*

This is the message we have heard from Christ
and proclaim to you: ♦

that God is light,
in whom there is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with God
while we walk in darkness, ♦

we lie and do not do what is true.

But if we walk in the light
as God is in the light, ♦

we have fellowship with one another.

And the blood of Jesus, the Son of God, ♦
cleanses us from all our sins.

If we say that we have no sin, ♦
we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, ♦
the One who is faithful and just will forgive us
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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.

*Tell the good news of Jesus the Christ
to all who are searching for redemption.*

1 John 1.5-9

*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

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.

Our prayers conclude

Almighty and everliving God,
increase in us your gift of faith,
that forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to what is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

[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

Let us pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.
Amen.

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

The reflection: The Rev'd Katy Waugh

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

416.922.4948

office@theredeemer.ca

www.TheRedeemer.ca

Twitter: @theRedeemerTO

Facebook: theRedeemerTO

Instagram: theRedeemerTO