

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, September 22, 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

At the evening sacrifice I got up from my fasting, with my garments and my mantle torn, and fell on my knees, spread out my hands to the LORD my God, and said,

'O my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. From the days of our ancestors to this day we have been deep in guilt, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been handed over to the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as is now the case. But now for a brief moment favour has been shown by the LORD our God, who has left us a remnant, and given us a stake in his holy place, in order that he may brighten our eyes and grant us a little sustenance in our slavery. For we are slaves; yet our God has not forsaken us in our

slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to give us new life to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judea and Jerusalem.

Ezra 9.5-9

The Psalm

Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, ♦
in the city of our God.

His holy mountain is fair and lifted high, ♦
the joy of all the earth.

On Mount Zion, the divine dwelling place, ♦
stands the city of the great king.

In her palaces God has shown himself ♦
to be a sure refuge.

For behold, the kings of the earth assembled ♦
and swept forward together.

They saw, and were dumbfounded; ♦
dismayed, they fled in terror.

Trembling seized them there;
they writhed like a woman in labour, ♦
as when the east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

As we had heard, so have we seen
in the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God: ♦
God has established her for ever.

We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God, ♦
in the midst of your temple.

As with your name, O God,
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; ♦
your right hand is full of justice.

Let Mount Zion rejoice and the daughters of Judah be glad, ♦

because of your judgements, O Lord.

Walk about Zion and go round about her; count all her towers; ♦

consider well her bulwarks; pass through her citadels,

That you may tell those who come after that such is our God for ever and ever. ♦

It is he that shall be our guide for evermore.

Psalm 48

The Gospel Reading

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.' They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

Luke 9.1-6

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

“Jesus sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money-- not even an extra tunic.”

(Luke 9: 1-6)

It's the day after the Canadian election! Hmmm....Is anything different? Wasn't that just a complete waste of vast quantities of money? We are in the seventeenth month of a pandemic that has upended our lives. The dreaded Delta strain and the anti-vaxxers are playing havoc with our sense of safety and freedom to roam even though we may be double vaccinated. Afghanistan has imploded. The dreaded Taliban is back. Hurricanes have hit Haiti and yet again. Have I mentioned the obvious signs of global warming? Wild fires all over the place. Enough you say. And, then we read in today's gospel about Jesus sending out his disciples to do the work of spreading the good news of the gospel to the world. Impossible task? Yup. Dangerous? Hmmm...yes. And, he tells them to travel light and to rely on the hospitality of those he meets. This is what I absolutely love about being a follower of his. God is giving us a daily challenge to do the seemingly impossible knowing that we are not alone while doing it.

So this forces us to let go of the doomsday 24 hour a day news. It allows us to wake up in the hope of a new day and it assures us that we are never alone. I know! I have been accused of being naive quite often. I prefer to call it being faithful or faith filled. I spend lots of my time seeking out poems, prayers and stories which help me to continue to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and to proclaim the good news of Gods' love which does bring healing.

This morning I offer you a very familiar clip called “If I had my Life to Live Over Again” by Nadine Stair which was very popular 30 years

ago but, which during COVID times seems to resonate.

If I Had My Life to Live Over

"I'd dare to make more mistakes next time. I'd relax, I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I would take fewer things seriously. I would take more chances. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones.

You see, I'm one of those people who live sensibly and sanely hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had to do it over again, I'd have more of them.

I'd try to have nothing else. Just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a raincoat and a parachute. If I had to do it again, I would travel lighter than I have.

If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would go to more dances. I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would pick more daisies."

I know this passage will not change the headlines or the election results or climate change or whatever else it is that keeps us awake at night or grumbling and texting during the day. But, I do know that for me it does contain the echo of this morning's gospel lesson where we hear Jesus' words of advice to his beloved followers as he sends them out into a world as complex as ours to bring a message of hope and love and healing.

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

The Canticle ~ Venite: A Song of Triumph

O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and be glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, ♦
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
Come, let us worship and bow down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God; ♦
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his
hand.
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.

Psalm 95.1-7

*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 God,
you have created the heavens and the earth,
and ourselves in your image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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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