

Daily Prayer

Feria

Wednesday, November 24, 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

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

The First Reading

King Belshazzar made a great festival for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded that they bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the vessels of gold and silver that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the royal palace, next to the lampstand. The king was watching the hand as it wrote. Then the

king's face turned pale, and his thoughts terrified him. His limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

Daniel 5.1-6

The Psalm

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

His own right hand and his holy arm ♦
have won for him the victory.

The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel, ♦
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of
our God.

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦
break into singing and make music.

Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦
with the lyre and the voice of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦
sound praises before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, ♦
the world and all that dwell upon it.

Let the rivers clap their hands ♦
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

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

Psalm 98

The Gospel Reading

Then he 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

Katy Waugh

" O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things." ~ Psalm 98

I love the invitation in this morning's psalm to sing a new song. Like everyone else who has endured these unending pandemic days, I yearn to hear a new tune.

Don't you just want to change the channel and put an end to hearing the grim statistics on numbers of people vaccinated, ICU stats, anti-vaxxer demonstrations, job losses and, this week, floods and landslides out west? The best way I know how to do hear a

new tune is to change my focus. These ancient psalms provide wonderful jumping off platforms to do just that.

I can breathe deeply, be quiet for a moment or two and then listen to the words of these songs of praise. Sometimes they reflect exactly the mood I am in, but, more often than not they jar me into hitting some re set button on my mood and outlook. Once I do that I find I am cradled in a much larger panorama than that of my limited vision.

As we read on, we are encouraged to make a joyful noise to all the earth. We are to sing praises with lyres, trumpets and horns. And then we read, “ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it...let the floods clap their hands, let the hills sing together for joy.” This is a very hard line to swallow when you think of all the peoples of B.C. whose lives have been devastated by water, mud, rocks and flooding. I am not suggesting we just quote these words of scripture to anyone. Rather, I think all these events challenge us to see how we are misusing the gifts that the Creator has bestowed on us and to take ownership of our responsibility for how the climate is changing.

One of my favourite indigenous writers, Richard Wagamese in a new book of his writings called What Comes From Spirit, says it this way.

“ In our way of seeing , the land and all things that move upon it is alive and therefore sacred.

Humankind's relationship to the Earth and its life forms has always been that of an equal. If you cared enough to consider the guardianship of yourself and your family, it followed that you cared enough to consider the guardianship of the Earth.

What it takes is a walk upon the land. Learning to see these things that exist here with something other than your own eyes....

Whenever you do that, you learn to see the mountains, begin to breathe in the falling darkness. You learn to accept the responsibility that comes with being a part of Creation and you begin to understand, as the Old Ones understand, that the honour of one thing is the honour of all."

And maybe then we will hear a new song and be able to sing with the psalm writer and make a joyful noise.

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

The Canticle ~ A Song of the Righteous

*God has found the righteous worthy
and their hope is full of immortality.*

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God ♦
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish, they seem to have died; ♦
but they are at peace.

For though, in the sight of others, they were punished, ♦
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little,
they will receive great good, ♦
because God tested them and found them worthy.

Like gold in the furnace, God tried them ♦
and, like a sacrificial burnt offering, accepted them.

In the time of their visitation, they will shine forth ♦
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples ♦
and God will reign over them for ever.

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.

*God has found the righteous worthy
and their hope is full of immortality.*

Wisdom 3.1,2a,3b,-8

*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

We pray for the flourishing of God's gifts to God's Church, saying:
Holy One,
in your mercy hear us.

God our Creator, you give us gifts that we may work together
in the service of your Son:
bless the leaders of your Church,
that they may be firm in faith,
and humble before you.
Holy One,
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who teach,
that they may increase our understanding,
and be open to your word for them.
Holy One,
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister healing,
that they may bring wholeness to others,
yet know your healing in themselves.
Holy One
in your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom you speak,
that they may proclaim your word in power,
yet open their ears to your gentle whisper.

Holy One

in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who work in your world today,
that in the complexity of their daily lives
they may live for you, fulfil your purposes,
and seek your kingdom first.

Holy One

in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who are uncertain of their gifts
and those who are powerless in this world's eyes,
that they may be made strong in your gift of the Holy Spirit.

Holy One

hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

Our prayers conclude

Lord of life,
who through your word bring all things into being
and through your love bring all things to fulfilment,
bless us as we seek to serve you,
that in all that we say and do and think
we may catch a glimpse of your presence,
which strengthens us on our journey
and guides us onwards on our path,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[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.

Credits:

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

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