

Daily Prayer

Titus and Timothy

Wednesday, January 26, 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—and remember Titus and Timothy, companions of St Paul.

We begin by saying

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your light springs up for the righteous

and all the peoples have seen your glory.

The First Reading

Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they

went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16.1-15

The Psalm

Alleluia.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord ♦
and have great delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land, ♦
a generation of the faithful that will be blest.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, ♦
and their righteousness endures for ever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; ♦
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous.

It goes well with those who are generous in lending ♦
and order their affairs with justice,
For they will never be shaken; ♦
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.
They will not be afraid of any evil tidings; ♦
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
Their heart is sustained and will not fear, ♦
until they see the downfall of their foes.
They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever; ♦
their head will be exalted with honour.
The wicked shall see it and be angry;
they shall gnash their teeth in despair; ♦
the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Psalm 112

The Gospel Reading

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

John 10.14-18

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

From: *For All the Saints*

Today the Church remembers Timothy and Titus, two of the many people who assisted Saint Paul in his apostolic work. According to the Book of Acts, Timothy was “the son of a Jewish mother who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.”

Paul himself converted Timothy to faith in Jesus Christ and called him “my beloved and faithful child in the Lord.” Though a young man and relatively new to the faith, Timothy shared the Apostle’s trials and labours in Asia Minor, and served as his emissary to the church at Corinth.

The background of Titus is even more obscure, though we do know that he, too, was a Greek and a fairly young man. It seems that Titus became the permanent liaison between Paul and the church of Corinth. In his correspondence with the Corinthians Paul called Titus “my partner and fellow-worker in your service.” Paul went on to remark: “We have urged Titus that as he had already made a beginning, he should also complete among you this gracious work.”

So it is, on the day after the feast of Saint Paul’s conversion, we honour his companions and fellow-workers Timothy and Titus, not only for their service to Paul, but also for their own faithfulness in the love of Christ and in the building up of the Church.

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

The Canticle ~ Jubilate A Song of Joy

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; ♦
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God; ♦
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise; ♦
give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, ♦
and his faithfulness endures from generation to
generation.

*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 100

*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 all the peoples of the world;
that they may know you as the God of peace,
we pray to you,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For nations, for leaders and governments;
that integrity may mark all their dealings,
we pray to you,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who labour for righteousness;
that your presence and help may give them courage,
we pray to you,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For communities torn by dissension and strife;
that your forgiveness may bring them healing,
we pray to you,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved;
that consolation and peace may be theirs,
we pray to you,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, your household and family;
that she may be firm in the confession of her hope,
we pray to you,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are separated from us by death;
that theirs may be the kingdom which is unshakeable,
we pray to you,
Lord, hear our prayer.

O God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great Shepherd of the sheep:
make us perfect in all goodness to do your will
and to be what you would have us be;
through him to whom be glory for ever,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our prayers conclude

Almighty God,
by the preaching of your apostle Paul
you called your servants Timothy and Titus
and made them his trusted partners
in the work of spreading and establishing your gospel.
Strengthen us in this present time
to stand fast in all our adversities
and to live in true godliness,
that with confidence and gladness
we may look for the glorious appearing

of our Saviour Jesus Christ;
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

Jesus, Lord of time,
hold us in your eternity.
Jesus, image of God,
travel with us the life of faith.
Jesus, friend of sinners,
heal the brokenness of our world.
Jesus, Lord of tomorrow,
draw us into your future. Amen.

Credits:

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The Intercessions: Scottish Episcopal Church—Form 1 (adapted)

The Collect: For All the Saints © 2007, General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada

The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: For the Beginning of the New Year. © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

The reflection: For All the Saints © 2007, General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada

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