

Daily Prayer

Eastertide

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

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 mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

let heaven and earth rejoice, Alleluia.

The First Reading

But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John also to assist them.

Acts 12.24-13.5a

The Psalm

God be gracious to us and bless us ♦
and make his face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known upon earth, ♦
your saving power among all nations.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.*

O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ♦
for you will judge the peoples righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦
let all the peoples praise you.*

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ♦
and God, our own God, will bless us.

God will bless us, ♦
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Psalm 67

The Gospel Reading

Then Jesus cried aloud: 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge

anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.'

John 12:44-50

In silence, we ask what the readings and reflection have to say to us today. Is there something 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

The Rev'd Katy Waugh

*"I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in darkness."*

~John 12:44-50

Yesterday, I was sitting outside having coffee with a couple of old friends.

The sky was cloudless, the magnolias were in full bloom, the birds were singing their unique tunes. It was a perfect spring day after a very long, cold dark winter! A perfect time to rejoice, share stories of hope and promise and maybe even some travel plans. Or, a time just to revel in the fact that we could be in each others' company after two years of lockdowns and isolation. And yet, all conversation seemed to be about the gloom and doom in Ukraine, or the horrors of the Taliban, or the nastiness of the current provincial election campaign or the upending of the Roe vs Wade decision in the U.S. Yikes!

When I got home and began to think about writing this brief homily,

I re-read the appointed lessons for the day and found these words of Jesus leaping off the page at me. "I have come as light into the world so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness." God was speaking directly to me, almost in that Charlton Heston voice of the old biblical movies, reminding me that my vision is limited.

Jesus was telling me that only he could be my flashlight, compass, candle or lantern to help me out of the darkness of gloom, fear and hate into better days of light, hope and resurrection.

Whew! I took some deep breaths and reminded myself that the word for spirit and breath is the same one! I found myself thumbing through my very well used book of prayers from the Iona Community out in the Inner Hebrides. I can often use some of those words to reset my clock

and to remind myself that God only has us mortals through whom to work. We can only do this hope-filled work if we are plugged into the power source that brings light. In this way Jesus' words seem to come true.

Here are a couple of prayers which I find to be real sources of light.

"Lord, in these times
When we fear we are losing hope
Or feel our efforts are futile,
Let us see in our hearts and minds
The image of your resurrection
And let that be the source of courage and strength."

"Healer of Galilee,
you come, again and again,
to permeate

our human condition;
to take upon yourself
all that hurts us.
And again, today
you accompany us
when our bodies are racked with pain,
when our minds are in confusion,
when our self-esteem is lost,
when our failures overwhelm,
when our faith falters,
when relationships break down,
when in our loneliness we move
beyond tears.”

This week, enjoy the coming of spring. Remember that God is alive!
Perhaps turn off the constant barrage of media news. Sit in the
darkness and then light a candle and hear Jesus speaking and
perhaps notice that you can see something differently than you
could when you first lit the candle...maybe even hum a few bars of
“This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.”

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

The Canticle ~ The Song of the New Creation

I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.

‘I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦
the Creator of Israel, your King.’

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦
a path in the mighty waters,

'Remember not the former things, ♦
nor consider the things of old.
'Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
'I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, ♦
to give drink to my chosen people,
'The people whom I formed for myself, ♦
that they might declare my praise.'

Isaiah 43.15,16,18,19,20c,21

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.

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

*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

With faith and love and in union with Christ,
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.
Have mercy on your people,
for whom your Son laid down his life:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,
and deliver them from evil:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring comfort to the dying,
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Give rest to the departed
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Amen.

Our prayers conclude

Lord almighty,
whose Son Jesus Christ knew the joys and sorrows of human life,
be with us in times of hope and in times of fear,
be with us in days of delight and in nights of sorrow,
be with us in new beginnings and in moments of ending,
that through all the turmoil of life
we may know you as our rock, our redeemer and our hope,
in Jesus Christ or 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

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.

Amen.

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