



Monday, June 13, 2011

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 8

This psalm reminds us in a glorious way of the majesty and glory of God's creation and the tremendous responsibility God has given us as stewards of that creation. Rather than making us feel powerful to "have dominion" over all things, this passage reminds us of our smallness in comparison with the greatness of God AND our accountability to God for the way we use and maintain the created world we've been given.

REFLECT-

- What do you do in an intentional way to be a good steward of the air, earth, water, nature and animals that God has given us? Do you recycle? Do you use electricity, water and gas in a conservative way? Do you know where the food you eat comes from and the people or animals that may suffer because of the way in which it is gathered or produced? What can you do differently?

PRAY-

Creator God, help me to be more conscious of the ways in which I use the resources of creation so that I may be a good steward of those gifts. Amen.

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

READ- Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5, 26 - 2:4a

God made his good creation out of a "formless void" with great care and intentionality. Human beings were created in God's own image and given responsibility for caring for the earth and all other living things. Then God rested, modeling for us the importance of Sabbath rest.

REFLECT-

- Do you truly rest on the Sabbath? This is one of the "big ten" of God's commandments, yet we take it so lightly today. What can you do differently to make your Sabbath a day of rest and worship which honors God's command?

PRAY-

O God, help me to make your priorities my priorities. Help me to make my Sabbath day one that truly honors you and restores my spirit. Amen.

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

READ- The Epistle: II Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul offers a farewell blessing here to his troublesome Corinthian church which had much internal turmoil. He begs them to live peacefully together and reminds them of the triune nature of the God they worship – the divine Parent made incarnate in Jesus Christ who is present with us forever in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

REFLECT-

- How do you interact with the three persons of the trinity? How do you experience the presence of God most fully – through the saving power of the Son, the power of the Spirit or God the Father? Regardless, they are all expressions of the nature of God.

PRAY-

Dear God, thank you for reaching out to us in so many ways. Thank you for Christ who teaches and saves us and for your Spirit which guides and empowers us. Help us to live peacefully with one another. Amen.

Thursday, June 16, 2011

READ- The Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

In the closing words of Matthew's gospel, Jesus gives his disciples their marching orders. They are to GO, to SHARE THE GOSPEL, and BAPTIZE in the name of the three Persons of God's nature – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But it doesn't stop there – they must then TEACH them how to obey Jesus' commands together in a community of faith.

REFLECT-

- It's not enough for someone to hear the good news and be baptized. That's only the beginning. They must be nurtured and shaped by the community of faith. They need relationships and support with and from other Christians in order to grow and mature in their faith. Are we doing that for one another in this faith community? Who needs your nurture and support?

PRAY-

O God, help my words and actions to be obedient to your teachings so that I may be an example and source of strength for others. Amen.

Friday, June 17, 2011

ACT-

Focus Verse: II Corinthians 13:11b

Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

What things in your life do you need to "put in order"? Is there a relationship that needs mending? An unfinished but important task that needs to be done? Has God been calling you to do something or change something in your life and you've turned a deaf ear so far? God's peace is not just the absence of conflict or violence; it's living in right relationship and obedience to God's will. What must you put in order so that you can claim that peace?