



Monday, August 13, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 111

This psalm of praise reminds us of God's faithfulness to care for his people. Through the ages, he has provided for our needs and lifted us up in times of suffering. In response, we should regularly offer him our praise and thanksgiving for his love and care.

REFLECT-

- This psalm has been used in corporate worship for centuries. When you come to worship on Sunday morning, what would it mean for you to worship God with your "whole heart"?

PRAY-

O God, forgive me when I fail to fully acknowledge and give thanks to you for all your blessings and care. Amen.

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

READ- The Epistle: Ephesians 5:15-20

Some early Christian believers felt that Christ was coming back to reign very soon, so what they did in the meantime made little difference. Paul assures them here it DOES matter how we live. Jesus set an example for us as to how God would have us live. Offering gratitude and thanksgiving to God each day is a must.

REFLECT-

- Living wisely does not mean we have all the answers to the struggles of this life. It means that we use the time God gives us to live in a way that is pleasing to him, loving others, deepening our relationship with God through scripture and prayer, taking care of our bodies so that we may use them in service to Him. Are you living wisely? What changes might you need to make in the way you use your time and resources?

PRAY-

Father, help me to love and serve today so that you may be glorified. Amen.

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

David's son Solomon, although he is not the eldest son, becomes king through the conspiring of his mother Bathsheba and the prophet Nathan. He worships God and God speaks to him in a dream. Solomon asks for wisdom to guide him in ruling the nation of Israel. God is pleased.

REFLECT-

- Discerning God's will is something all Christians wrestle with. We ask God for what we want and need in prayer; yet sometimes those requests seemingly go unanswered. God's way is not our way; his time is not the same as ours. Solomon's request for wisdom was a practical one. We can learn from his simple prayer.

PRAY-

Lord, give me wisdom so that I may discern your will and then carry it out as your faithful servant. Amen.

Thursday, August 16, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 6:51-58

Jesus' disciples who had already been taught by him to understand his parable of bread / wine vs. flesh / blood most likely understood what he meant by these words. But to Jewish listeners, it probably sounded like some type of cultic cannibalism. Accepting him fully, we then become the flesh and blood of Jesus. It was a "difficult teaching" to understand.

REFLECT-

- What does partaking of the Lord's Supper mean to you? Do you pay attention to the words we say as part of the liturgy? Jesus not only told us to eat the bread and drink the wine to remember, but he gave us those words so that we might confess, receive forgiveness, and take Him into ourselves so that we might live each day in his love, in his ways and to the glory of God.

PRAY-

O God, feed me today with that "bread of life" so that I may never be hungry for your presence and power. Amen.

Friday, August 17, 2012

READ- Sermon Text: Genesis 1:26-31

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.