



Monday, July 9, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 24

This psalm is a celebration of the power and majesty of God and all his good creation. It was likely used in King David's time for occasions of special significance at the tabernacle because it is a joyful reminder that we should hold God in reverence, awe, and ultimate respect.

REFLECT-

- Although God loves us, we need reminders in passages such as these that God deserves our honor, respect and a healthy measure of fear. God is all-powerful, all-knowing and created everything that exists. God is God and we are not!

PRAY-

Lord, we give you thanks for your love, power and care over us and all your creation. Amen.

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

READ- The Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14

Paul emphasizes here God's gracious will for humankind and his creation (vss. 10 and 12). God has given us an immeasurable gift of his love and grace so that all heaven and earth may eventually be "gathered up" to him. Our response to that gift should be constant praise.

REFLECT-

- It is so easy to take for granted all that God is given us. We can believe that the blessings of our lives are the result of our efforts and not take time each day to give thanks to God. What are you most grateful for today? Lift those things up to God in prayer.

PRAY-

Father, I thank you for family, friends, home, health, work and rest. I thank you for my church family and pray that together, we may be instruments of your love to a hurting world. Amen.

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David decided to move the ark to his new capital city of Jerusalem. There was a great parade with the king leading the way, dancing and giving praise to God. The ark carried the tablets of the commandments given to Moses, the staff of Aaron, a pot of manna and the book of the law.

REFLECT-

- David gives great care to moving the ark in reverence to God and made this an occasion of great blessing for the people. There were musicians and the people were dancing and feasting. Only Michal, David's wife and the daughter of Saul, found fault with David's actions. Sometimes we church folk are quick to find fault with means of worship that may be different than the past. The key is whether God is being glorified through that worship.

PRAY-

Lord, help us to stay focused on you in our times of worship rather than what pleases us or what we enjoy. May you be glorified. Amen.

Thursday, July 12, 2012

READ- The Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

This passage marks an important transition in Jesus' ministry. John the Baptist had many followers of his message of repentance and soon came to be seen as the returned Elijah who preceded the coming Messiah. John spoke truth boldly to the humble and the powerful and was killed at the whim of a woman who did not want to hear that truth.

REFLECT-

- Like John and Jesus, we also are called to speak truth boldly when a wrong or injustice has occurred. Likewise, we must be prepared for that truth to sometimes have adverse consequences with those who do not agree. Where might you be called to speak an inconvenient or unpopular truth?

PRAY-

O God, give me your guidance so that I may discern your will and courage to speak up when your truth needs to be heard. Amen.

Friday, July 13, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: Ephesians 1:11-12

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance...so that we... might live for the praise of his glory.

What does it mean to live in praise of God's glory? If we look to Jesus' priorities of loving God and loving neighbor – the greatest commandment – then our prayers, our worship, the way we care for ourselves and others, the way we use our material and natural resources are all a part of the way we "live in praise of God's glory". As you go about your day today, take a time for prayer and worship and be mindful of your words and actions - do they glorify God and fulfill his will? That is our gracious inheritance through Jesus Christ!