



Monday, November 19, 2012

READ- The Old Testament: II Samuel 23:1-7

These words are attributed to David as he prepares to die. He reflects on how God raised him up – someone who was not of royal lineage – and how God has been with him as he tried to govern the people justly. He remembers God’s covenant with the people which will endure.

REFLECT-

- David was not a perfect man – he made some terrible mistakes in his lifetime. Yet his faith and trust in God never wavered. He relied upon God constantly to guide his path. God has a purpose for your life just as he did for David’s. Trust him, listen for his call and act obediently.

PRAY-

Lord, we give you thanks that there is nothing we can do that can separate us from your love. Thank you for your constant presence. Amen.

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 132:1-18

This psalm is used by the Jewish people to remember David’s desire to build a temple for God and when he brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem and established that as the center of worship. Christians hear in verses 11 and 17 a covenant with God that we believe was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

REFLECT-

- The Jewish people of this time believed that God had a physical presence in the temple in Jerusalem, which made the destruction of that temple and their exile in foreign lands so devastating. That fidelity to place and heritage is what continues to fuel the Mideast conflict over Jerusalem to this day. Through Jesus, we understand that God is everywhere around us and within us.

PRAY-

Lord, help me to be a temple of your Spirit today and every day. Amen.

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

READ- The Epistle: Revelation 1:4b-8

This passage reminds us of the eternal nature of God – the Alpha (beginning) and the Omega (end), Christ’s saving work for us on the cross, and the coming judgment day when we will all stand before the throne of God and be held accountable for how we have lived.

REFLECT-

- Is the final judgment day something you think about? If you faced that judgment today, how do you think God would feel about the way you have lived your life? Are you using your resources, gifts and abilities for his glory? What needs to change?

PRAY-

Thank you for your grace and mercy that comes to us through Jesus Christ. Help me to live as Jesus taught us in gratitude for that loving gift. Amen.

Thursday, November 22, 2012

READ- The Gospel: John 18:33-37

For centuries, devout Jews had hoped for a king like David, anointed by God, who would expel foreign rulers and restore the nation to Jewish rule. That is the dynamic that undergirds this conversation between Pilate, a Roman ruler, and Jesus who had just entered the city on a donkey heralded by huge crowds waving palm branches who claimed him as king.

REFLECT-

- Jesus claimed his kingship, yet over a different realm than the one Pilate understood. Jesus spent much of his teaching time describing for his disciples and the crowds what the “kingdom of God” is like. If Jesus is king in our life, we are to live in ways that help that kingdom to become a reality here and now.

PRAY-

O God, in the words of the prophet Micah, help me to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly” with you and with my neighbor. Amen.

Friday, November 23, 2012

ACT-

Focus Verse: John 18:37b-c

For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.

Jesus often used the word “truth”. He referred to himself as “the way, the truth, and the life”. He came to help us know the true nature of God and to restore our broken relationship with God. When he ascended he sent the “Spirit of Truth” – the Holy Spirit to continue to teach and guide us in God’s ways. We are to “testify to the truth” just as Jesus did by our words and actions each day that we live. Be aware today in the conversations you have, the decisions you make, the opportunities you have to be an influence for goodness, justice, and compassion that each is a testimony of some kind. You have the chance to be God’s representative today. Listen for Jesus’ voice and let it inform that testimony to glorify God!