



Monday, April 29, 2013

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 67

This psalm of praise and thanksgiving for God's great blessings rings familiar in our ears since it is the basis of the benediction our pastor speaks each Sunday morning at the close of worship. Verse 2 emphasizes that God is sovereign over "all nations" and that "all peoples" should praise him.

**REFLECT-**

- In a time in which there is war, violence, terrorism, famine, and horrific natural disasters, this passage can provide us with great comfort that God loves all his creation and is ultimately in control and will prevail. What blessings do you need to praise God for today?

**PRAY-**

Lord of all creation, sometimes we feel alone and afraid in a world that seems out of control. Give us your peace in knowing you will have the last word. Amen.

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

**READ-** Acts of the Apostles: Acts 16:9-15

In last week's Acts passage, Peter is given the message from God that all peoples, not just the Jews, are welcomed into the kingdom of God. Paul has already been preaching to the Gentiles and endured criticism from the other disciples. But now, his actions have been affirmed by God and takes the gospel message to Europe in response to a vision from God.

**REFLECT-**

- Lydia, a woman of means and influence, responded quickly and with great faith to Paul's preaching and teaching. She graciously invited Paul and Silas to stay at her house while they were in Macedonia. What is God calling you to do to live out your faith?

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me to respond to your call by taking action in some way. Give me the courage and stamina to do what you call me to do. Amen.

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

**READ-** The Epistle: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John's vision of the New Jerusalem – God's holy city fully realized in all its glory in which God lives among his faithful people here on earth – is something we can all look forward to as part of our future if we have accepted Christ as our savior.

**REFLECT-**

- Do you think about life after death much? Is it frightening to you or do you feel at peace about your eternal rest with God? It is wise for each of us to reflect upon God's promises to us through Christ about what happens after we die since each day we live could be our last.

**PRAY-**

Lord, we thank you that you sent your son Jesus that we might know what you have in store for us and claim his promise of salvation. Amen.

Thursday, May 2, 2013

**READ-** The Gospel: John 14:23-29

Jesus' words of comfort, promise and power to his disciples as he prepares to leave them are offered to us as well. We also are empowered to do ministry in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit given to each of us who believes and we have access to Jesus' comfort in times of trouble just by asking in prayer.

**REFLECT-**

- Many of us have little awareness of the Holy Spirit moving in our lives. The more we try to live in obedience to God's will and allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit, the more we will begin to see amazing things happen through the Spirit's power. Where have you seen the Spirit moving in your life recently?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to turn my life over to you, to seek your will each day that I live, and to be guided by the Spirit in the path you would have me go. Amen.

Friday, May 3, 2013

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse:** John 14:27

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.**

The peace that comes from Christ is not just an absence of conflict. It is a deep assurance of God's presence and power in all aspects of our life, no matter what the world throws at us. Sit quietly, close your eyes, and breathe in God's peace – feel God's loving arms surround you. You are his beloved child. As you go about your day, let that sense guide your words and your actions. See all those you meet as God's beloved child and treat them accordingly.