



Monday, April 8, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 30

The psalmist praises God for relief of suffering, for once more turning his good will toward the people who had felt somehow that God had abandoned them over to destruction.

REFLECT-

- Verse 6 calls our attention to the fact that in good times of “prosperity” in our lives, we often turn our faces away from God, thinking everything is going well and that we can make it on our own without God. Then something happens that brings us to our knees once more as we realize our great need for God. Do you spend time with God in good times as well as in times of need?

PRAY-

Loving God, keep me ever mindful that every good thing in my life comes from you so that I may be grateful and use those things for your glory. Amen.

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

READ- Acts of the Apostles: Acts 9:1-20

In one of the most dramatic about-face scenes in the Bible, God steps in to change the heart of the church’s most ardent persecutor – Saul – into the most powerful evangelist in the history of the Christian church. But Ananias’ courage and obedience to God’s will were critical to making it happen.

REFLECT-

- Have you ever felt called to do something that was risky or perhaps unpopular because of your faith? Ananias was risking his life seeking out the man who had been killing followers of Jesus; yet he went and did God’s will. What might God want you to do today that will require courage and a change in your life?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to speak and act boldly for you so that others may know about your saving love for us. Amen.

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Revelation 5:11-14

In one of the most dramatic scenes in Revelation, John imagines what the ultimate scene of worship on that final day will be like – legions of angels and every creature praising God and the Lamb (Jesus).

REFLECT-

- We often get mixed up in our concept of Sunday morning worship, somehow thinking that it is “for” us – that we are the recipients. Worship is something we offer together as the family of God to give praise, honor and glory “to” God. How do you prepare yourself to worship God on Sunday?

PRAY-

God of all creation, help me as I come to worship this Sunday to set aside my own needs, wants, worries and agendas to focus entirely on you. Amen.

Thursday, April 11, 2013

READ- The Gospel: John 21:1-19

John’s gospel closes with this remarkable story, probably added after the death of the beloved disciple, which demonstrates Jesus’ love for his disciples after his death and his forgiveness of Peter for denying him after his arrest. Peter receives his commission from Jesus to preach and teach and make disciples.

REFLECT-

- Imagine how Peter must have felt after Jesus’ death after he publicly denied him three times. Even after Jesus’ resurrection, the guilt Peter felt must have been incredible. We also deny Christ in our everyday life with some regularity, choosing other priorities before God. Can you accept Jesus’ forgiveness AND your commission to service as Peter did?

PRAY-

O God, help me to make your priorities my priorities. Help me to live into Jesus’ commands to love one another with my time and resources. Amen.

Friday, April 12, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: John 21:19b

After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Jesus stands before each of us daily asking us the same question he asked Peter, “Do you love me?” Are we answering “yes” or are we turning away by the way we live? In order for Peter to accept the commission Jesus gave him, everything in his life had to change. It was not easy. He faced great opposition and eventually died a martyr’s death. We also face great opposition to living out our faith after Jesus’ example. Temptation surrounds us. What needs to change in your life so that you can truly follow Jesus? Do something today that demonstrates your commitment to follow Christ. You know his priorities – the poor, weak, oppressed, sick, imprisoned, lonely, and those who have not heard the good news. Step out with boldness and live into your commission from Jesus.