



Monday, April 1, 2013

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 150

These resounding words of praise to God by all creatures and his creation form a brief but glorious closing to the entire book of Psalms. It is filled with sounds and movement – trumpets, lutes and harps playing, cymbals and tambourines keeping time with voices and dancing! Read it aloud, feeling for yourself that joyful praise to God.

**REFLECT-**

- Too often, we confine our worship of God in order to maintain “proper” decorum. Music in worship is the perfect opportunity to let loose the joy and praise you feel for God. It’s clear from the psalmist’s words, those early worshippers felt free to do that. So sing, dance, clap your hands! We have reason to be joyful!

**PRAY-**

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Amen.

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

**READ-** Acts of the Apostles: Acts 5:27-32

Peter and the apostles have been jailed for preaching the gospel openly, released from prison by an angel, and now have been hauled back in before the religious authorities. Peter, who denied Christ after his arrest, now speaks boldly, blaming the authorities for killing the Messiah and reaffirming their authority to preach and teach.

**REFLECT-**

- Peter and the apostles were able to hold their ground in the face of persecution because their faith in Christ assured them they were right in doing so. Are there things happening within your circle of influence which are wrong and need to be addressed or confronted? Can you draw courage to do that from your faith?

**PRAY-**

Lord, give me the strength and courage through the power of the Holy Spirit to speak openly and act boldly for justice, compassion and love in all circumstances. Amen.

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

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

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, April 4, 2013

**READ-** The Gospel: John 20:19-31

Jesus, in his resurrected body, appears to his fearful disciples to assure them that everything he told them before his death is indeed true. From this visit and the next one in which Thomas proclaims him as Lord, they draw the courage and boldness they need to proclaim the gospel in the face of great persecution.

**REFLECT-**

- Jesus tells Thomas, “Do not doubt, but believe.” What doubts do you have in your Christian faith? Do you wonder if you can really be forgiven? Do you wonder what heaven is really like and if we will know our loved ones there? Jesus showed his disciples that he is trustworthy; we must trust him as well and release our doubts just as Thomas did.

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to trust you completely, knowing that all things work for good for those who love you. Amen.

Friday, April 5, 2013

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: John 20:29b

**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.**

All of us need someone to help us come to faith. We cannot do it on our own. We have the holy scriptures as our guide and the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and direction we need, but everyone needs a real, live witness to their faith in Jesus Christ who can share what he has done in their life, to encourage us to have the faith we need. YOU can be that person for someone who needs to hear your witness. Look for an opportunity to share your faith with someone who is still searching and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage and the words to say that will convey the message of salvation.