



Monday, May 6, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 47

This psalm celebrates the power and strength of God over all his creation using the image of God as King which was more understandable to the people of that time than in our culture. It is a psalm expressing great joy in the repeated phrases of praise to God. It is best read aloud with energy and expression.

REFLECT-

- There is nothing reserved about this psalm. We're told to "SHOUT to God with LOUD SONGS of JOY" and to "SING PRAISES". It IS right and good that we worship God with excitement and celebration. Read the psalm again, thanking God for all your blessings!

PRAY-

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Amen.

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

READ- Acts of the Apostles: Acts 1:1-11

Luke describes here the events that the disciples experienced in the days after Jesus' death and resurrection, recounting his appearances to them, his teaching and the miraculous events they experienced which secured their faith in him as the Christ. Finally, he tells of Jesus' ascension into heaven and the heavenly emissaries who confirmed his departure.

REFLECT-

- This period of 40 days described here was critically important to the disciples in empowering them to continue Christ's ministry. These experiences changed them from people hiding from the Jews behind locked doors to bold and courageous apostles who died for their faith. What would it take for your faith to be that secure?

PRAY-

Lord, give me the faith 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, May 8, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23

The writer of this letter to the church at Ephesus defines for them clearly Jesus' continued role in the life of the Church – that he sits at God's right hand and is the "head over all things for the church... not only in this age, but also in the age to come". It was important that these new Christians understand that although Christ is no longer physically with us, he remains firmly involved and guides the life of his people.

REFLECT-

- This passage is a tremendous encouragement for us so that when we feel weak, inadequate, or alone, we may be assured that Jesus is still firmly in charge and can empower us to do remarkable things in his name if we trust him, ask for and receive that power. In what area of your life to you need that power right now?

PRAY-

Father, help me to trust and seek out the power which only you can provide. I ask for it now so that you may work in my weakness. Amen.

Thursday, May 9, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

After Jesus had spent time with his disciples after his resurrection – teaching, reassuring and giving them instructions for the future, he blessed them and "was carried up into heaven". Rather than grieving or losing heart at his leaving, we hear that they "worshiped him...with great joy".

REFLECT-

- Jesus had been arrested, tried, put to death, buried, rose and then appeared to the disciples. Now God's plan was apparent and understandable to them and rather than grieving Jesus' ascension, they knew that he was always with them and that he had left them the tools they needed to do his work. Do you feel Christ's presence with you in your everyday life? You have the tools as well to do his work; are you using them fully?

PRAY-

O God, help me to make time each day to spend with you so that I may know and do your will. Amen.

Friday, May 10, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Acts 1:8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Until we have experienced firsthand the power of the Spirit working in us, doing things we could not possibly do on our own, we often don't fully appreciate its importance. To give the Spirit free rein over our lives, we must make ourselves available and obedient to God's will for our lives. How might you do that more fully today?