



Monday, May 13, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

This Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the great crowd in Jerusalem. This psalm celebrates God's marvelous creation and the "sending forth" of God's Spirit (vs. 30) as a creating and sustaining life force.

REFLECT-

- If you've never taken time to really notice the beauty, the intricacy, the amazing balance of God's creation, take some time today to do that. Look at the night sky in all its' splendor, the veins in a leaf, the rich color and texture of an iris bloom, the silky softness of a cat's paw, the chorus of frog tunes played in the dark. Look, touch, smell, listen... and praise God!

PRAY-

Creator God, thank you for the rich beauty and wonder of your creation! Amen.

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

READ- Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:1-21

This story has all the special effects of a Hollywood blockbuster movie! Tongues of fire, rushing wind, people suddenly speaking languages different from their native tongue – all hearing the great good news of what Christ has done for the world. Christ's church is given the power of the Spirit in a fashion no one can deny or ignore!

REFLECT-

- Have you accepted and embraced the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life? Do you live in a way that leaves you open and listening for the Spirit's guidance? Are you obedient to the Spirit's leading? What is the Spirit calling you to do right now?

PRAY-

Lord, help me to be intentional about keeping myself open to the movement of your Spirit in my life so that I may be obedient. Amen.

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Romans 8:14-17

Paul expresses here how God's gift of the Spirit enables us, though we are sinful creatures, to be "joint heirs" with Christ to a joy-filled life now if we live into the guidance of the Spirit AND eternal life to come. Paul encouraged the church at Rome to rely on the power of the Spirit of God to overcome persecution, sin, and the difficulties of this life.

REFLECT-

- The Apostle Paul was writing to the Roman church toward the end of his ministry and he spoke through experience of reliance on the power of the Spirit to get him through the many hardships of his life. When things get tough for you, do you seek God's guidance? Prayer is our best avenue to allow the Spirit to guide and empower us. We must make it part of our daily practice so that in times of trouble, we are well acquainted with tapping into that divine power source.

PRAY-

Father, teach me to listen more than I talk when I come to you in prayer so that I may receive the Spirit's guidance each day of my life. Amen.

Thursday, May 16, 2013

READ- The Gospel: John 14:8-17, 25-27

In this passage, Jesus tries to explain to his confused disciples what will happen after his death and how they will receive the teaching and guidance they need to continue his ministry. He tells them about the coming of the "Advocate", the "Spirit of truth" (vs. 16-17) who will be with them just as Jesus has. The disciples, like us, had a hard time grasping the nature of the Spirit.

REFLECT-

- Jesus also says plainly to the disciples here that if they want to know what God is like, they have only to look at his life and teaching AND follow his example. Do you know Christ's commandments – have you read them in the Bible? If so, are you trying to live your life according to them?

PRAY-

O God, help me to take to heart all of Christ's commandments and to live according to his example through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Friday, May 17, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: John 14:12a

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do.

Think of the things you know that Jesus did while he lived here on earth. Some things are beyond our power, but many others are well within our abilities and means. Pick one and look for an opportunity today to show love in a tangible way to someone who has a need. That person is the neighbor whom Jesus told us to love.