



Monday, November 11, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 118

This psalm contains familiar acclamations of praise that we use frequently in worship (verses 1, 24, 26 and 29) and verse 22 was proclaimed to by several of the Gospel writers as having been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This is a song of praise both for the individual and the congregation as they rejoice in what God has done.

REFLECT-

- Make the message in verses 1 and 29 your breath prayer throughout the day today. At least once an hour, say it aloud and then share with God exactly what you are thankful for at that moment. Fill your day with praise and thanksgiving to God!

PRAY-

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Amen.

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

READ- Old Testament: Isaiah 65:17-25

This particular section of Isaiah 65 follows the prophet's strong warnings against the continued unfaithfulness of the people and the punishment that God will mete out in response; yet the prophet does not leave the people without hope as he paints a picture of God ultimate intention for his people – the “new heavens and new earth” (vs.17).

REFLECT-

- Peace, no more suffering, and a time when everyone has what they need to live fully. These are things for which the whole world longs. Yet that's not how things are in our world today. Do you think what the prophet describes will happen in this world as we know it or is he describing the heavenly existence to come?

PRAY-

Lord, we thank you for passages such as this one filled with hope for a better world. Help us to be among your faithful people so that we may be part of this new place of peace. Amen.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

READ- The Epistle: II Thessalonians 3:6-13

Paul makes clear that those who follow Jesus are expected to be productive members of society, working to earn what they need to live. Some members of this community, thinking that the return of Christ was eminent, were sitting back and doing nothing and expecting others to support them.

REFLECT-

- As Christians, we have a responsibility to be about doing Christ's work in the world. Jesus calls us to be productive citizens of the Kingdom. Each of us has work we are called to do for God. Look for opportunities today to love God and your neighbor.

PRAY-

Father, keep my hands busy serving others and my heart open to you. Amen.

Thursday, November 14, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Jesus describes for his disciples what will happen in the times prior to the Second Coming and assures them of strength and courage as they will face a time of great conflict and trial. The events he describes occur often in the course of natural history, so (as Jesus says elsewhere) we cannot know the exact time, but we must be ready and strong in our faith.

REFLECT-

- Does this passage make you fearful? Many of the things Jesus describes can be found in our current world happenings. Some predict the end of the world in 2012. What is more important is Jesus' assurance to us that he is always with us, giving us what we need to face any kind of trial or adversity.

PRAY-

O God, we do not know the time that Jesus will return and your kingdom will be fulfilled; but we thank you for the assurance of faith that allows us to face each day with confidence of your love for us. Amen.

Friday, November 15, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: II Thessalonians 3:13

Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Sometimes it feels like no matter how hard we try to live in a way that would please God, it is to no avail. Although we can never earn our salvation – it is a free gift of God –our response to that gift is to love and serve God and our neighbor in need. “Doing what is right” is not always easy, pleasant or convenient. Pay attention today to opportunities you have to go the extra mile to do what is right in the eyes of God, which is often very different than what other people or our culture encourages us to do.