



Monday, November 18, 2013

READ- The New Testament Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, praises God for all his good works and for the promised messiah who will save his people. He addresses the latter part of the psalm to his son who he says will prepare the way for that Messiah.

REFLECT-

- This Sunday we celebrate as Christ the King Sunday which prefaces the season of Advent. This passage from Luke reminds us of the centuries of prophetic messages foretelling the one who will come to save God's people that came to pass in the birth of Jesus Christ. Prepare your heart once more for the coming of Christ!

PRAY-

Thank you, Lord, for your holy scriptures which help us understand your plan for the salvation of the world through your Son. Amen.

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

READ- Old Testament: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Jeremiah is calling to task the kings of Judah who have not governed faithfully or justly following God's laws. He predicts punishment and destruction because of that; yet gives a promise of a future time in which all will be restored and there will be a just and loving king.

REFLECT-

- Jesus was not the kind of king the people expected based on prophecies such as Jeremiah's. They anticipated someone like King David with great military might and power. Instead, there came a simple carpenter son's whose power was very different, yet it would change the world forever.

PRAY-

O God, I pray for those in positions of power in my community, nation and world that they may work for justice and peace as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

READ- The Epistle: Colossians 1:11-20

The writer of this letter was trying to encourage Christians living in a large city filled with all kinds of competing philosophies and pagan religions which conflicted with Christian beliefs. Emphasizing the centrality of Christ in all that was, is and will be, the writer hoped to give believers faith and courage to hold fast.

REFLECT-

- We live in a similar type of culture to the church at Colossae. All around us are people of other religions, no religion or pseudo-religions such as the New Age movement or Scientology who claim to have the answers to our deepest questions. What is it about Jesus Christ that persuades you to follow him rather than one of these competing belief systems?

PRAY-

You came to us in human form, lived among us, taught us, suffered, died and was resurrected so that we might know you and have life. Thank you, O God for that great gift! Amen.

Thursday, November 21, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Moving from Zechariah's prediction of the coming King to what seems to be the end of that King on a cross, we get a sense of the love, compassion, and forgiveness of this God-in-flesh who lived and died and rose again so that we might truly understand the magnitude of God's love for us.

REFLECT-

- Jesus' compassion and forgiveness for the penitent thief beside him on the cross exemplifies God's willingness to forgive us at any time if we humble ourselves and just ask. For what do you need God's forgiveness today that you have been too proud or stubborn or ashamed to lay at God's feet?

PRAY-

Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. Amen.

Friday, November 22, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Colossians 1:11b-12a

...May you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father...

As you go through your day today, slow down as you go about your tasks, noticing the beauty of the world around you, taking joy in the people you encounter and giving them your full attention, embracing those delays or tangents that would normally anger or frustrate you as opportunities to pray and to practice the fine art of patience. As you wait in traffic or in a doctor's office or in the checkout line at the store, use that time as a chance to "joyfully give thanks to the Father" for all your blessings. See how that impacts the quality of your day and that of those around you.