



Monday, November 4, 2013

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

This is a very personal psalm – one written in first person and was intended to be sung by an individual in temple worship. Some psalms are designed to represent the entire people or a congregation in addressing God, but this writing is a pure song of praise and adoration from one person to his God.

**REFLECT-**

- Take some time outdoors, weather permitting, and “meditate” on God’s “glorious splendor” and think about God’s “wondrous works” in your life.

**PRAY-**

With your reflections in mind, now read this passage aloud as your prayer to God today.

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

**READ-** Old Testament: Haggai 1:15b – 2:9

Haggai was among the third waves of Hebrew prophets who brought God’s word to the people before, during and after they were conquered, Jerusalem was destroyed, and they were taken into exile. They have now been allowed by King Cyrus to return to rebuild Jerusalem.

**REFLECT-**

- Haggai emphasizes putting God first in his message to the remnant of the chosen people who were trying to rebuild their lives. He encouraged them to devote their time and material resources to rebuilding the temple and to following God’s laws. In what ways do you put God first in your life? What things do you allow to come before God in your priorities?

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me to put my love and service to you and to my neighbor first in the way I spend my time, my money and in all the choices I make. Amen.

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

**READ-** The Epistle: II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Paul’s letter addresses a very specific problem in this community of Christian believers – the false teaching of those who claimed that God’s kingdom had already come, which was contrary to Jesus’ teaching. Paul encouraged the people to hold fast to the teachings of Jesus and continue to press on so that they will be ready when Jesus does come again.

**REFLECT-**

- It is sometimes tempting to buy into false interpretations of faith, such as today’s “prosperity gospel” which may seem more pleasant and easy than strictly adhering to the way Jesus taught us to live and the promises he gave us. What are ways in which your daily life does not line up with what Jesus taught? How might those change?

**PRAY-**

Father, teach me how to clear away the things that prevent me from doing your will. Give me the insight, strength and courage to let them go. Amen.

Thursday, November 7, 2013

**READ-** The Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

In one of the few places in his recorded teachings, Jesus here deals with a question that we all have about what our life will be like with God after we are “resurrected”. It was hard for the Sadducees, as it is for most of us, to imagine what we will be and how our existence will be different from our current lives. Jesus promised that we will be “like angels” and will be “children of God”.

**REFLECT-**

- Jesus’ statement about eternal life for those who believe should give us great comfort and hope for the future. Life as we know it now will be changed and all creation will be restored to right relationship with our God. What does that promise mean to you at this point in your life?

**PRAY-**

O God, thank you for all that Jesus taught us so that we may have peace and a hope for eternity spent with you. Amen.

Friday, November 8, 2013

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: Psalm 145:4

**One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.**

In this individual psalm of praise to God, the psalmist asserts that it is our responsibility to communicate our faith to those who come after us. As parents and grandparents, it is our place to tell younger generations what we believe and what that has meant to the way we live our lives. Certainly the church as the body of Christ plays a significant role in our faith development and our ability to minister to one another and the world. Yet, the psalmist reminds us here that we have a personal responsibility to share our faith as well. Look for opportunities today to do that.