



Monday, November 24, 2014

**READ-** The Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9

The prophet begs God to “tear open the heavens and come down” so that God’s people, torn from their homeland and scattered in foreign lands, may be healed and restored through God’s mercy. He acknowledges that the people sinned and continue to do so; only God’s intervention can change their hearts and turn them back to obedience to God.

**REFLECT-**

- When has God stepped into your life in a mighty way through circumstances or people to shape and mold you? When has your heart, your attitude or your circumstances been radically altered by God’s hand? We are clay in the Potter’s hands if we are open and receptive.

**PRAY-**

Lord, mold me and make me after your will while I am waiting, yielded and still. Have thine own way, Lord. Amen.

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

This psalm is a plea on behalf of the people for God to have mercy and relieve their suffering. The psalmist interprets their suffering as punishment from God and asks that God use his mighty power to set things right once more.

**REFLECT-**

- In times when it seems that everything is going wrong and there is nothing but evil in the world, we may feel God has abandoned us and does not care. We would do well to listen to the psalmist who remains confident that God can and will resolve the wrongs and prevail over evil.

**PRAY-**

Lord, help me always to trust you and look to you for my help in all circumstances. Let your face shine through me today! Amen.

Wednesday, November 26, 2014

**READ-** The Epistle: I Corinthians 1:3-9

Remember that the church in Corinth struggled in the midst of an affluent, pagan culture rife with temptations to stray away from God. Paul reminds Christians of the incredible gifts they have been given which are to be used for God’s glory. He encourages them to put on the strength of Christ so that they may stay firm in their faith.

**REFLECT-**

- God has given you gifts to be used for his glory. Are you using your gifts fully in the life of your church to do God’s work in the world? During the season of Advent is an excellent time to take stock of your gifts and how you might use them to serve God.

**PRAY-**

Father, thank you for the unique gifts you have given me. Help me to know the ways in which I can use them for your glory. Amen.

Thursday, November 27, 2014

**READ-** Psalm of Thanksgiving – Psalm 111

Today we celebrate Thanksgiving – a time to gather with family, count our many blessings, and give thanks to God. This psalm offers thanksgiving for all the bountiful ways in which God cares for us and provides for us and his good creation.

**REFLECT-**

- Our greatest blessing is the assurance of our salvation provided to us by Jesus Christ. In gratitude, we have the chance each day to love God and love one another. Take time as you gather with those you love today to offer up this psalm and your prayers to God.

**PRAY-**

O God, I give you thanks for all the ways in which you have richly blessed us. Help me to be a good steward of those blessings, using them in ways that are pleasing to you. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Amen.

Friday, November 28, 2014

**READ-** The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus speaks to his disciples here about the destruction of Jerusalem which actually took place in A.D. 70 – some 40 years later. He warns them of the suffering and hardship to come and assures them that God will prevail. Their job – and ours – is to be faithful and obedient to his commands so that we will be ready when God fulfills his Kingdom.

**REFLECT-**

- What do you think Jesus meant when he told his disciples to “keep awake”? What does it mean for us to be prepared for Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> coming? What would you change about your life if you knew it was tonight?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me be “awake” today to all the opportunities I have to love you and to love those around me and to use them with care, compassion, and generosity. Amen.