



Monday, May 16, 2011

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

The psalmist expresses trust and confidence in God's righteousness which will always be there to save and sustain him, no matter what may happen. The image of God as our "rock" implies a reliable, firm foundation for our life.

**REFLECT-**

- In times of difficulty and suffering, we often cling more closely to God's presence. When have you experienced God as your "rock"? Is there another image of God which is more meaningful to you and why?

**PRAY-**

Lord, I thank you for your ever-abiding, never-changing, always-loving presence with all of humanity and our world. Amen.

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

**READ-** Acts of the Apostles: Acts 7:55-60

These verses describe the last moments of the Christian martyr Stephen's life. In the preceding verses, Stephen confronts the religious leaders who criticize him and tells the story of Jesus Christ. He makes no apology for his faith and is obviously prepared to meet his fate.

**REFLECT-**

- It is apparent that Stephen had many spiritual gifts and received power through the Spirit in his time of trial. His focus was on living his life and sharing his testimony of Jesus Christ as Savior of the world. What is your focus in living out your Christian faith?

**PRAY-**

O God, help me to seek out and live into the spiritual gifts which I have been given and give me courage to speak and act boldly for you wherever you may send me on my spiritual journey. Amen.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

**READ-** The Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Peter here describes Jesus as the "living stone" on which our faith and salvation are anchored. We too are to become living stones which become part of God's "spiritual house" as we accept God's gift of mercy and pattern our lives after Jesus' teaching.

**REFLECT-**

- The people to whom Peter was writing here were previously consider outcasts from God's people – Gentiles, former slaves, mercants and traders and Jewish exiles. For him to describe them as "God's own people" would have been a huge thing for them. Likewise, although we are not worthy of our own merit, we also are God's own people. What does that mean to you?

**PRAY-**

Father, I thank you that you claim me as your own, your beloved, and that I have a place in your Kingdom. Amen.

Thursday, May 19, 2011

**READ-** The Gospel: John 14:1-14

Jesus says goodbye to his disciples as he prepares to ascend to the Father. He offers them words of comfort, hope, encouragement and challenge to carry his message into the world. As usual, they don't quite understand, but Jesus offers clarity and reassurance.

**REFLECT-**

- In one of his clearest statements about his identity, Jesus tells the disciples he is an expression of God's nature. If they've seen him, they have seen the Father. What does that tell you about God? How might that change your perception of and relationship with God the Father?

**PRAY-**

O God, until Jesus came, human beings could only see God through a glass dimly. But in the person and life of Jesus, we can truly know God. Hallelujah! Amen.

Friday, May 20, 2011

**ACT-**

Focus Verse: John 14:12

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and in fact will do greater works than these because I am going to the Father.

Jesus gives us as his disciples this remarkable assurance that we can indeed do great works of healing, compassion, care and conversion if we do so in his name and in the power of the Spirit. Think of the great works done by the disciples and the Apostle Paul. Through that handful of people, the Christian faith spread throughout the world. Be conscious today of an opportunity for you to tap into that spiritual power offered us by Christ and to step out in faith to do "great works" in his name.