



Monday, December 23, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 148

The last five chapters of the Psalms focus solely on praising and giving thanks to God. No requests are made of God. In beautiful language, the psalmist invokes all of creation to praise our Creator. Best when they are read aloud, these passages invite us to be joyful for all God has done.

REFLECT-

- Read the psalm aloud noticing which particular verse catches your attention as you read. Then reflect on that particular verse – why might those words have a deeper or special meaning in your life today? As you go through your day, keep that verse close to you and repeat it.

PRAY-

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Amen.

Tuesday, December 24, 2013 – Christmas Eve

READ- Old Testament: Isaiah 63:7-9

The prophet reminds the people in this passage of all the past times in which God has cared for them, loving and forgiving them for their unfaithfulness. As we prepare for the coming of our Savior (vs. 8), we must once again remember that he took on our distress (vs. 9) as he walked among us as a man.

REFLECT-

- What distress or grief do you bear today that you need to turn over to God? If you only allow Jesus to walk beside you each day, you will feel the “angel of his presence” (vs. 9) there to save you. Offer any pain, grief, fear or burden up to God in prayer now.

PRAY-

Lord, I lift up to you the places of suffering in my life. Walk with me, guide and direct me, grant me your love and mercy. Amen.

Wednesday, December 25, 2013 – Christmas Day

READ- The Epistle: Hebrews 2:10-18

Today as we remember Jesus’ birth in the filth of a cattle stall, we are reminded of the importance of his humanity. He was born and lived his life in poverty, was tempted just as we are, was rejected by those he came to save, and suffered and died that we might have eternal salvation.

REFLECT-

- Because Jesus lived a fully human life – laughed, cried, was hungry and tired, faced trials and temptations – we can be sure that he understands all the things we face as human beings. Yet even in terrible suffering, Jesus was faithful and obedient to God’s direction for his life and he can help us to be as well.

PRAY-

Lord Jesus, thank you for your perfect example of how God wants me to live. Give me your strength and peace as I try to be faithful today. Amen.

Thursday, December 26, 2013

READ- The Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Joseph learned quickly to listen and respond to the messages of the angel he received in his dreams. He took Mary as his wife although she was already pregnant, he took his family away to Egypt to escape Herod and then returned after Herod’s death and then settled in Galilee instead of Judea, all as a result of listening to the Lord’s direction.

REFLECT-

- Do you listen carefully for God’s direction? God speaks to us in many ways – through circumstances, other people, the words of scripture, even in dreams. Awareness and obedience are key.

PRAY-

O God, help me to listen for your voice and be open to direction I may not understand or expect – and to be obedient. Amen.

Friday, December 27, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: Isaiah 63:7a

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us.

During the Advent season, we have spent time in worship and devotion together “recounting the gracious deeds of the Lord” that led to the birth of his Son. Each Sunday as we gather in worship, we hear the words of scripture reminding us of all God has done for the world and for us as his people. The prophet Isaiah knew the importance of always remembering God’s “praiseworthy acts” and giving thanks for them, every day that we live. Today, take time to reflect on all the good things God has done for you and give thanks to him. Then as you go about your day, remember that you have been blessed by God to be a blessing to others – take that to heart in the words you speak and in your thoughts and actions. How may God work through you to bring blessing to someone you encounter today?