

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Daily Lectionary Passages:

Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14

Psalm 146 (NRSV)

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!



Thought:

This psalm is a prayer for the faithful to put their trust in the lord. Focus on the creativeness of God in the variety of His creation. Take time to pray this psalm making it first person. (verse 5: “Lord, I am happy for my help is the God of Jacob, my hope is in the Lord my God.)

Isaiah 42:14-21 (NRSV)

¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace,

I have kept still and restrained myself;

now I will cry out like a woman in labor,

I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills,

and dry up all their herbage;

I will turn the rivers into islands,

and dry up the pools.

¹⁶ I will lead the blind
by a road they do not know,
by paths they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I will do,
and I will not forsake them.
¹⁷ They shall be turned back and utterly put to shame—
those who trust in carved images,
who say to cast images,
“You are our gods.”
¹⁸ Listen, you that are deaf;
and you that are blind, look up and see!
¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf like my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind like my dedicated one,
or blind like the servant of the Lord?
²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹ The Lord was pleased, for the sake of his righteousness,
to magnify his teaching and make it glorious.

Thought:

Isaiah 42 is the start of the “suffering servant” prophecy of Isaiah, referring to Jesus. In what ways Jesus fulfill the above passage? Part of the passage tells us of the compassion and power of God. God is the one who can bring light into the darkness, calmness into the midst of storms. God is also ready to lead and guide us when we are willing to spend time in His word.

Colossians 1:9-14 (NRSV)

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins

Thought:

Colossians is one of the letters that Paul wrote to a town that he had not visited. He learned about their faith through a fellow missionary. Paul opens his letter with this wonderful prayer for the congregation. Either write down or underline everything Paul asks God to give the church at Colassae. Throughout the day, pray about one or two of these for our church and for yourself.

Prayer:

Creator God, we see the signs of spring all around us: daffodils blooming, trees budding, the grass turning green. We pray for your creative power to spring forth in our world today. Open the eyes of the blind, give your word to the deaf, bring light into the darkness. We pray for your guiding hand in our life and in the life of the world.

Loving Lord, we pray for your church throughout the world today. Fill your people with the knowledge of your will. Bring spiritual wisdom and understanding. Provide us with strength to endure every suffering for your sake that we may obtain eternal life. We give you praise for calling us as your children, forgiving our sin and giving us salvation through Jesus Christ your son.

Today we pray for all the men and women who are providing compassion for the sick, comfort to those who are experiencing the pain of death, and are offering their lives to serve others. Give us hearts of compassion to share our gifts with our neighbors and those in our community who need your touching grace.

(Spend time in silent prayer, praying for those you know. Name them before God and place them in God's loving arms).

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.