

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Daily Lectionary Passages:

Psalm 29; Job 39:26-40:5 & John 14:25-26

Psalm 29 (NRSV)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendor.  
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.  
The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!



Thought:

When we think of peace, we think of no war or violence. The word “shalom” has a much deeper meaning. It includes harmony, safe, sound, the absence of agitation and discord, and a state of calm without stress or anxiety. It speaks of holistic health of body and soul. In short, peace comes to those whom God favors.

Peace is where this Psalm ends. “May the Lord bless his people with peace!” Only the Lord is able to give this complete peace because God is powerful enough to deal with the chaos within creation. God is enthroned over the flood that brings devastation. When we find our peace in the Lord, we do not need to have anxiety in the midst of the storms. Storms will come, (and we will have anxiety) yet we can rest in the peace of God is given to those He blesses. May you experience the blessing of the peace of the Lord.

Job 39:26-40:5 (NRSV)

“Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars,  
and spreads its wings toward the south?  
Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up  
and makes its nest on high?  
It lives on the rock and makes its home

in the fastness of the rocky crag.  
From there it spies the prey;  
its eyes see it from far away.  
Its young ones suck up blood;  
and where the slain are, there it is.”  
And the Lord said to Job:  
“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?  
Anyone who argues with God must respond.”

Then Job answered the Lord:  
“See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?  
I lay my hand on my mouth.  
I have spoken once, and I will not answer;  
twice, but will proceed no further.”

Thought:

After hearing the word of the Lord, Job realized the importance of remaining silent. God has offered Job a chance to reply to His statements. God was asking Job a question, “Anyone who argues with God must respond.” Job’s response was in silence. Job realized that in the presence of God, he should have never opened his mouth. He had spoken too much, and should have simply listened for God during the storms of life.

No matter where you turn, someone is giving advice about the storms of our day. Currently that is dealing with COVID-19 and police brutality and race relations. Maybe it is a time to be silent in the presence of the Lord and listen to God’s direction. Filled with God’s word, we are able to learn where we need to be reformed. One of the phrases of Presbyterians is “reformed and always reforming according to the word of God.” We allow God’s word to continue to reform us into His holy people. Then, our actions and words are filled with the grace of God.

John 14:25-26 (NRSV)

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Thought:

God has sent to us the Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of everything Jesus had taught while he was with the disciples. These words were not reassuring when Jesus spoke them. During the time that Jesus went through his trial and crucifixion, the disciples were not thinking of these words. Yet, Jesus told them these words to give them comfort after he has left them. Jesus knew what was coming, and the Trinity worked together to bring salvation. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that they were not being abandoned.

It goes without saying, if the Holy Spirit is the teacher, followers are the students. We are always disciples, being trained by our Rabbi. When we spend time in reading the Bible, we seek what the teacher is wanting us to learn. Some students have a knack at reading teachers and are able to predict what will be on the test or what to write in a paper. The Holy Spirit as a teacher wants us to remind us of what Jesus has said to us. When we come to a test, we rely on the Spirit to guide us in ways of righteousness.

Prayer:

Holy Father, we give you thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Through your Spirit, remind us of the teaching of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Forgive us when we have not listened to your teachings. Show us how to treat others as you would have us. Remind us that your salvation is for all people. Give us the words and actions to be your witnesses to others, while we remain your students. May we continue to be reformed according to your word.

(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.