

Thoughts & Prayers ~ June 7, 2018

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the protector of all who trust in you, and beside you, nothing is strong or holy. Multiply your mercy and guide us that while using the good things of this fleeting life, we do not lose hold of the things that endure forever. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Gelasian Sacramentary, 7th Century)

Prayer Concerns

Diane Winters (recovering from recent surgery)

Gail Pope (continued health concerns)

Thoughts on the Readings

The Common Thread

God wants our fellowship. When things cool down a bit, we see him there, new every morning, ready to walk with us. There is yet hope for we sinners, if we do not lose heart, waiting in the promises of his Word. God desires so much to love us that, even in death he brings us to life again so that we may again be the object of his great love. Even in sin, his forgiveness is ready to embrace us again.

First Reading - Genesis 3:8-15

Sin separates us from God. After Eve and Adam had disobeyed God, they withdrew from God. They hid. God, however, did not withdraw from the couple. Indeed, he got “in their faces” about it so they would admit their fault and repent. When the false hopes of deceitful sin disappoint and cause you to feel so ashamed that you try to withdraw from God, you may be sure that he is there “among the trees,” calling out to you.

Psalm - Psalm 130:1-8

With God there is abundant mercy and forgiveness; we stand securely because we are sustained by the promises of his word.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Here we are, after two thousand years of Christianity, with the same faith, driven by the Spirit of God to have a spirit of evangelism. We cannot help but spread the good news. Though there are sometimes momentary obstacles, we do not give up. Though we are worn down on the outside, the inner person is revived daily. In fact, when things even seem hopeless, “we faint not” (KJV). We do not look to the moment. We hope for the things that are eternal though as yet unseen. This is why the Church remains driven to tell the good news of Christ.

Gospel - Mark 3:20-35

Jesus had his gawkers. He had drawn a crowd that wanted to see what he would do or say next. No doubt some laughed, some mocked, and some believed. His mother and brothers had come to take the embarrassing young man home. Some in the crowd informed him that his family had come to fetch him. At that point he said something many likely thought crazy. He looked around at the crowd he had drawn and pronounced that these people who had come to hear his words were his real family.