

Thoughts & Prayers ~ August 9, 2018

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, only by your gift of grace can the faithful offer service that is worthy of you and deserving of praise. Keep us from stumbling as we run to receive your promises; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Leonine Sacramentary, 6th Century)

Prayer Concerns

Brenda Dunn (mourning the death of her brother)

Steve Horinka (mourning the death of his brother)

Thoughts on the Readings

The Common Thread

At times the Christian life can seem overwhelming. We take our eyes off the Lord and flee. We run. Perhaps this is a good thing, though in retrospect, it can feel faithless. We can get worn out, in need of rest and refreshment. To taste and see that the Lord is good, sometimes we just need a nap first. At other times, we need to put off an old way of life, or some emotional bondage, before our spirits are renewed. The goal, of course, is to feast upon the Lord. The one who hungers and thirsts for Christ, will be eternally satisfied, full and at rest.

First Reading - 1 Kings 19:1-8

Elijah had stood up to King Ahab and all his prophets. But now Queen Jezebel threatened his life, vowing to kill the prophet since he had slaughtered all her prophets. This illustrates the weariness and loneliness that came befall us when we are afraid world, and do not trust in the Lord in faith. Yet, God is merciful. He provides for his weary servants sending his angels with the nourishment we need for the journey ahead.

Second Reading - Ephesians 4:17-5:2

The old self is callous and corrupt, full of deceit and desire. Even though that old person was buried by God in the waters of baptism, it threatens to resurface and take control again. We are exhorted to put away and be finished with this former way of life. By daily repentance and confession, we put on the new self and are renewed in the spirit of our minds. The old way of life is gone. The new has come! (2 Cor 5:17) We now live as imitators of God in Christ.

Gospel - John 6:35-51

There are two equally bad choices that we might make. One is to look at the world, either with its temptations or its threats. The other is to look to oneself as the answer to these fears. Social media is rife with illustrations of Christians who put too much stock in the threats of the world. We need only look within to see the plethora of temptations. If we focus upon either the fear or our power to overcome them, we have lost the clarity of a Christlike mind. In short order, we will begin to grumble like the Hebrews in the wilderness and the Jews in Capernaum. Our focal point must remain in Christ alone. We must see him in the midst of trials and temptations—and continue to believe and trust. Everyone who looks on the Son and believes will be sustained eternally by him who is the Bread of Life.