

Prayers at Mid-day for Monday May 10, 2021

Invitatory

O God, make speed to save us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen

Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Scripture

Luke 9:18-27

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” ¹⁹ They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.” ²⁰ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.”

²¹ He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, ²² saying, “The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

²³ Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? ²⁶ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

Commentary

(Norm)

Over the years I have had the opportunity to lead worship services, to preach and to lead bible studies. When Fr. Simon came to St. Margaret's he asked me if I would like to continue to preach on occasion and I quickly found myself on a regular rotation of preaching once a month. Simon is a great tutor. He always took the opportunity to discuss the thoughts I had used in developing my sermons. For me one of the great 'take-aways' from Simon's mentoring was to ask myself 'what is the application of this sermon/commentary'.

In preparing any of those sermons then or commentaries now, I try to imagine what it would have been like living in and around Jerusalem 2000 years ago. Today's reading is a prime example of trying to put myself (ourselves) in the sandals of Jesus and his followers 2000 years ago.

Jesus is in his mid 30's. He has for the last 3 years lived the life of an itinerant Rabbi. He has performed all sorts of 'miracles'. He has developed a following, some very dedicated and some only marginally interested. He has managed to really upset the Jewish leadership. He may even have been espousing things that, at the time, seemed destructive to the Jewish way of life.

And now, in today's reading Jesus is in the country side near Bethsaida after just providing food for 5,000 plus. He turns to those closest to him, his disciples, and says to them "*Who do the crowds say that I am*"(v18). Who do the crowds say that I am? The answer was easy. All they had to do was repeat what they had heard "*They answered, "John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen."*"(v19). And then Jesus turns again to those closest to him, those that had travelled with him, those he had sent to teach and to heal, those who had witnessed the many 'miracles', and he says, yes, "*But who do YOU say that I am?*"(v20).

And now the application. If you had been there having seen all the things that Jesus had done, if you had been one of his closest confidants what would **you** have said. In fact, today, 2000 years later and knowing what we do, what is your answer to Jesus' question, "*But who do YOU say that I am?*". Not only that, why do you say what you do?

*I guess that the red letter question for today is – who do **you** say that Jesus is?*

Perhaps the better question is – do you even talk about him?

There is lots more in today's reading – what would you have written about?

Intercession

In faith I pray to you Lord God.

That this day may be holy peaceful and full of your presence.

In faith I pray to you Lord God.

That the work I do and the people I interact with today may bring me closer to you.

In faith I pray to you Lord God.

That I may be forgiven my sins and failures.

In faith I pray to you Lord God.

That I may hear and respond to your call to peace and justice. That the world would hear your call.
In faith I pray to you Lord God.

That you will sustain the faith and hope of those who are lonely, oppressed, and anxious.
In faith I pray to you Lord God.

That you will strengthen me in your service and fill my heart with longing for your kingdom.
In faith I pray to you Lord God.

God of mercy you know and love us all and hear our prayers keep me in the eternal fellowship of
Jesus Christ our Saviour
Amen

Collect of the Day.

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, to serve you is perfect
freedom. Defend us your servants from the assaults of our enemies, that we may trust in your
defence, and not fear the power of any adversaries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Thanks be to God