

MORNING PRAYER D Week of 4.15.24

LIVING WATER

God, help me to see others not as enemies or as ungodly but rather as thirsty people. And give me the courage and compassion to offer your Living Water, which alone quenches deep thirst.

-Henri Nouwen

Aliveness is a gift available to all by God's grace. It flows not from taking, but giving, not from fear but from faith, not from conflict but from reconciliation, not from domination but from service...It springs up from our innermost being like a fountain of living water. It intoxicates us like the best wine and so turns life from disappointment into a banquet. -Brian McLaren

Only living water can satisfy a thirsty soul.

-Lailah Gifty Akita

OPENING

Christ is Living Water, flowing deeply into thirsty souls and arid lives.

Flow, Living Water, into those portions of our lives that feel like drought.

Christ is Living Water, saturating fear with peace and hatred with love.

Flow, Living Water, and drench within me all that does not honor your Way.

Christ is Living Water, offering drink to those who thirst for hope, for deliverance, and for abundant life.

Flow, Living Water, and quench the deepest thirst of our dry and weary souls.

To a people traveling through the wilderness, God brought water from a rock.

To a woman at a well in the middle of the day, Jesus brought a water that could not be contained in a bucket.

To this gathering of prayerful disciples, the Holy Spirit continues to offer a Living Water that flows with the energy of healing, forgiveness, and restoration.

This morning, we receive anew the Living Water and drink deeply from its streams.

PRAYER

Gracious God,
if we came to your house,
we would find the door open,
because there are no closing hours
for the hospitality offered by the Divine Heart.

**If we came to your house,
we would hear many accents,
ours just one among them,
for there is no favored nation
in the commonwealth of heaven.**

If we came to your house,
we would see people
who never thought they would be allowed in,
had entrance been by merit
rather than by your gracious invitation.

**So, as we gather in Jesus' name,
let the characteristics you cherish
become evident in all we do and share together.**

Gather into one
the glorious assortment of un-likes
which is your true church.

**Reveal within this community what we must do,
what we must hear,
and who we must welcome
if we are to know Jesus among us.**

God, give us the grace
to surrender our presumptions
as to what we should be or do;
and then amend our lives
until we become the people you intended.

Amen.

PSALMS 133 & 134

How good and how lovely it is
to live together in unity.
**Precious it is, like oil,
poured out to anoint the head.**

Unity is like the dew
falling on holy mountains.
**With it comes God's blessing,
life for evermore.**

Come, bless the Lord,
you servants, fulfilling God's commands;
**Love and praise your maker,
the God of heaven and earth.**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Listen now for the heart of God within the words of Scripture.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday- Hebrews 10:19-25

Tuesday- Jeremiah 17:5-8

Wednesday- Exodus 15:22-27

Thursday- Job 5:8-16

Friday- John 4:1-13

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

A silence is kept...

PRAYER

Before we separate today, a prayer for those who are suffering deprivations of any kind, a prayer for those who are ill and those who tend to them, a prayer for those who are grieving and for those who have died... *pause...*

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Before we separate today,
a prayer for our own healing,
the healing of bodies which are sick,
or hearts that are weary,
or minds that are confused,
or imaginations that are overactive,
or memories that are menacing... *pause...*

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Before we separate today,
a prayer for our own deepening
in faith, hope and love,
in our life as a band of believers,
in our own walk with God... *pause...*

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Before we separate today,
let us ask what God wants us to hear,
or have, or do,
and be open to receive it graciously... *pause...*

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For all that God gives to us, we say
Thank you.

To all that God asks of us, we say
Yes.

In Jesus' name.
Amen.

BLESSING

Let us pause for a moment in silence
and value our souls,
our minds and our bodies
on which we will ask God's blessing...

A brief silence is kept...

Let us pause for a moment in silence
and value *each other's* souls,
minds and bodies
on which we will ask God's blessing...

A brief silence is kept...

May God bless us
in our bodies with health,
in our minds with understanding,
in our souls with the company of the Holy Spirit,
that together we may become channels of always-
flowing grace, to the glory of Christ,
the Living Water,
whose salvation we receive, whose name we bear,
and whose love is all.
Amen.