

prayer and dinner

November 21
2010

Questions

1. What does the Gospel say to you?
2. In your life, when have you been the soldiers jeering at others or criminal demanding results?
3. What is the Kingdom of God?
4. What are the reflections saying?



Psalm 123

How good it is to enter the sanctuary of the Lord!
I know that God is not confined
within our four-walled creations,
nor is God attached to altars and brass symbols.
And yet, in the beauty and quietness of God's house
I find real and fulfilling presence.

God is with me and about me
even as I make my way
through the concrete and steel jungles
of this cold and unfriendly city.

God is present even behind the anonymous faces
of the rushing crowds elbowing their way
to their respective destinations.
I find God in the hearts and lives of ourselves, the
children of God,
who infiltrate the urban masses
and who are running God's errands
in the course of our daily duties.

I cannot outrun or evade God.
Before me and behind me, God is there.
I will be kept and sustained wherever I am.

And yet I rejoice as I enter God's sanctuary
and mingle with those who honour God's name
and seek grace.

There, shielded from screaming tensions
and ear-splitting sounds of the city,
in the company of those who love one another
I happily open my heart
to the loving mercy of God.

Common Prayer



Final Prayers

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be



Song - Shine Jesus Shine

Lord the Light or Your Love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining,
Jesus light of the world shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me. Shine on me.



Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit blaze,
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord and let there be light.

Lord I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance,
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me. Shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kindly brightness.
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me. Shine on me.

Gospel Reflection

The kingdom of God is a way of life. It is not only a way of life offered by Jesus but one that he pioneers for us. He is our way; he is our freedom.

If we believe that God's creation is good, then the way to discover ourselves is by self-giving love, saying 'Yes' to God. This is the way Jesus lived. It would seem a foolhardy and absurd way were it not for his being raised up, were it not for his belief in the closeness of his Father's love. If we wish to live the true way, then we are compelled to it through our love for Jesus Christ, not through our own self-willing.

With you, Lord, we are set free from fear and selfishness. With you, Lord, the world has hope of salvation. May your kingdom come.

Gospel - Luke 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said,
"He saved others, let him save himself
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God."
Even the soldiers jeered at him.
As they approached to offer him wine they called out,
"If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."
Above him there was an inscription that read,
"This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus,
saying,
"Are you not the Christ?
Save yourself and us."
The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,
"Have you no fear of God,
for you are subject to the same condemnation?
And indeed, we have been condemned justly,
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing criminal."
Then he said,
"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
He replied to him,
"Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise."

Reflection - Say 'No' to Greed, Pride and Power

Christians make a stand against greed, pride and power - the spirit of the world which is opposed to the spirit of Christ. This attitude is one of the essential elements of the Christian way. The desire for money, power and personal aggrandisement can subtly enter into people's lives, and cripple them spiritually. The consequences of these tendencies are that they limit the effectiveness of one who wishes to present the Gospel of Jesus. Christians are invited to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by keeping their eyes fixed on God alone and on the kingdom. Taking a personal stand against the crippling forces of greed, pride and power Christians develop the inner freedom to be faithful disciples of Jesus, and build a Christian community.



Poem - A future not our own By Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back
and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of
the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No programme accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:
We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they
hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further
development.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our
capabilities.

We cannot do everything
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step
along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the
rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master
builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

