

Lenten Midday Prayer – April 6, 2022

I AM the True Vine

Preparation (Assistant)

L: We cast our burdens upon you, O Lord,

C: and you will sustain us.

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

C: and renew a right spirit within us.

L: Cast us not away from your presence

C: and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

L: Give us the joy of your saving help again

C: and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

L: Blessed are you, O Lord, day by day,

C: the God of our salvation who bears our burdens.

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

C: Amen.

First Reading (Lector)

Zechariah 8:12-17

For there shall be a sowing of peace; the vine shall yield its fruit, the ground shall give its produce, and the skies shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. Just as you have been a cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you and you shall be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong. For thus says the LORD of hosts: Just as I purposed to bring disaster upon you, when your ancestors provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts, so again I have purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; do not be afraid. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgements that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the LORD.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-17

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon (Pastor Phil)

Prayers (Assistant)

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church on earth, for those who proclaim the gospel, and for the ministry of congregations throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit guide all to love and service, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For seas and fields, plants and animals, for the well-being of the earth, and for those who advocate for the just use of God's gifts, that all creation continue to thrive, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations of the world, those who govern and those who serve, that leaders accomplish their duties faithfully and judge people with equity, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the sick, the lonely, those who mourn, those afflicted with illness, and those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that God provide them with compassionate caregivers, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For diverse families in all places, for all parents and caregivers as they teach their children to know and love God, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for all the saints who have died in Christ, that their faithfulness to the gospel inspire us every day, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer (Assistant)

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Prayer (Pastor Phil)

L: Let us pray. God of power and love look kindly on the tasks we have begun,
and at this midday hour renew your grace within us: make good our defects,
and bring our work to that fulfilment which accords with your will. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace (Pastor Phil)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Please share a wave of peace with each other.

Benediction (Pastor Phil)

L: May the Lord keep us in the light and truth and love of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.