

MORNING PRAYER
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
05.08.22

In our first lesson we come into the middle of a story.
King David had sinned grievously.
We won't go into that, but now, as a result ... his baby son is
terribly sick.

David, believing it to be his fault, is passionate in his prayer,
fasting, and sleeping on the ground. Finally, after a week, the child
died. Everyone expected David to be shocked and upset, and to go
into deep mourning at the news, but, instead, he got up, bathed and
dressed, broke his fast, and resumed his normal activity. "He's
gone now. I can't change that," he said, "He's not coming back to
me, but I will go to him."

How many of us have lost dearly beloved ones? Was it an easy
thing?
Some of us watched a long and sad decline, doing everything we
could to keep the end from coming, laboring, worrying, praying,
but unsuccessfully.
Others were overtaken suddenly by the loss. How many of us had a
faith like David's, a faith that accepts what is and trusts God.
"I'll go to him," he said, and went about his business until that day.

"In my Father's house are many mansions:"
said Jesus in the second lesson,
"if it were not so, I would have told you."

There's no news here. David knew that already.
How?
He knew the character of God.
He trusted in His goodness.
Jesus didn't say, "You know it because I told you."

He said instead, "You already know it.
If what you know were not true, I'd tell you."

But here comes the news.

I go to prepare a place for you."

He came into the world, A prophet like other prophets.
He declared the Word of the Lord.
He announced the judgment of God on a disobedient people.
He proclaimed the invitation to repentance. He pointed us to the kingdom of God.
But He did more, because He was more, no mere prophet, but God the Son of God, not merely a messenger, but the Way, As He said to Thomas,

***"I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

For all the pointing of all the prophets, it remains true that we are weak, flawed, and sinful, and totally unable to do what must be done if we are to reach that final goal, but He, the Lord, became a man, and, as a man, trod the paths of death, and suffered them for us, after which He broke those bonds, rose again, and goes before us, to make us welcome forever.

He is the way.

By the path He opened, by the pains He suffered for us, by the Blood He poured out for us, by the cross on which he died, by the tomb in which his lifeless body lay, by His glorious triumph over death, He has become the Way, and that Way leads on to glories unimagined.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you," He says, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also;"

And we may respond,

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

And we follow Him on the path He prepared, In His Truth, in His life, to the place where David knew He would go, where his son awaited, where, perhaps some of our loved ones wait, and where, above all, He awaits, the one who loved us enough to die and rise again.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who art the way and the truth and the life, look upon us poor sinners and stir up in us, by thy cross and resurrection, the lively hope of everlasting redemption, thou who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Amen.

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