

Saturday, April 22, 2023

INVITATION:

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

(Ps 119:103-104)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG: Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

PRAYER:

Holy God: with the precious jewel of holy scripture, you share with us the treasure of your heart. Engrave your covenant - your hopes, your dreams, your vision, your peace - upon our hearts, that they might beat as one with yours.

Holy Word: ever clear, you keep us from wandering down the wrong paths; ever longed for, you make us persistent in bringing justice to the lost and to the least; ever practical, you show us how not to misplace our hearts.

Holy Wisdom: as you breathe the Word into our hearts, tutor us in faithfulness so we are trained in using the tools of justice and hope; so we are equipped to share the good news with all; so we become skilled in compassion and grace.

God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our hearts to you. Amen⁶

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

*for Pastor George, Janice and our Mandarin congregation

*for paramedics and other first responders

*for those in the USA recovering from recent tornados

What else do you want to talk to God about?

How is God inviting you to respond?

BLESSING:

May the knowledge
of God's presence
be your strength
throughout this day,
a source of wisdom,
love, light, and grace.
And as darkness falls
may you find peace
in that presence,
and the gift of sleep. Amen.⁵