

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

INVITATION:

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. (Ps. 126:3)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG: Psalm 97:1-6, 10-12

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory ...

Let those who love the Lord hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, when I face the power of sadness, have mercy on me.

When I do not get what I want, even when I think it is what you want, give me grace to accept what is given and faith to trust that you can sustain me.

When I remember the joys of times gone by, help me to thank you for your mercy, which has brought me to the present.

When I am frustrated by the people who are closest to me, open my eyes to see how they are gifts from you, given to guide me into all truth.

Deliver me from sadness, that I might always hope in you and receive even my suffering as an opportunity to share your redeeming love for a broken world.¹

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

- *for our Covenant Kids and their leaders
- *for the board of the Gate ministry
- *for racial reconciliation around the world

*What else do you want to talk to God about?
How is God inviting you to respond?*

BLESSING:

May the peace of God reign in this place
and the love of God forever hold you tight,
May the Spirit of God flow through your life
and the joy of God uphold you day and night. Amen.⁵