

Thursday, May 4, 2023

INVITATION:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Pet. 1:3)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG: Psalm 71:1-6, 22-24

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.
Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;
give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,
my confidence since my youth.
From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you. ...

I will praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, my God;
I will sing praise to you with the lyre,
Holy One of Israel.
My lips will shout for joy
when I sing praise to you—
I whom you have delivered.
My tongue will tell of your righteous acts
all day long,
for those who wanted to harm me
have been put to shame and confusion.

PRAYER:

King Jesus, I lay down my name, my striving, my kingdom-building, and I offer my imagination for your thoughts, my hands for your work, my mouth for your praise.

King Jesus, I pray as you taught us: Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. I call to mind now a particular person, place, or situation where Your kingdom is lacking. Come, Lord Jesus, come.⁷

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

*for Cheryl and Jenn and their work with our children

*for the unemployed and underemployed of our community

*for persecuted Christians in North Korea

What else do you want to talk to God about?

How is God inviting you to respond?

BLESSING:

May the love of Christ
be active in your heart,
be heard in your words,
be seen in your actions
and inform your choices
today and all days. Amen.⁵