

Friday, May 5, 2023

INVITATION:

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG:

Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked...

When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.

Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You that You are a God of action and surrender, miraculous power and victorious suffering. Help me, today, to meet You in both, to join Your renewal in my activity, and to equally join Your renewal in my passivity, my suffering, my surrender.

Jesus, I pray now for the suffering, sick, oppressed, and hurting – individuals I know by name and people groups I know only from afar. I pray that they would know, even now in the midst of their pain, the God who suffers with us to bring an end to our pain.

God, I repent of my demands for Your action and my certainty that I know best how to bring healing to myself and Your world. You are the wounded healer. Even now, as I imagine running my hands over Your wounds as Thomas did, fill me with faith, hope, and love.⁷

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

- *for the people of Hebron to be authentic and “real” with each other
- *that the people using the Zion/Hope Food Bank will desire to come to know Jesus
- *for those facing extreme poverty in Burundi

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

BLESSING:

May the riches of God’s blessing
never become a thing of pride
but an overflowing well of giving
daily shared both far and wide. Amen.⁵