

Thursday, May 18, 2023

INVITATION:

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him (Nah. 1:7)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG: Psalm 7:1-5, 14-17

Lord my God, I take refuge in you;
save and deliver me from all who pursue me,
or they will tear me apart like a lion
and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me.

Lord my God, if I have done this
and there is guilt on my hands—
if I have repaid my ally with evil
or without cause have robbed my foe—
then let my enemy pursue and overtake me;
let him trample my life to the ground
and make me sleep in the dust. ...

Whoever is pregnant with evil
conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment.
Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out
falls into the pit they have made.
The trouble they cause recoils on them;
their violence comes down on their own heads.

I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness;
I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.

PRAYER:

Prayer of St. Patrick

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me.
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,

Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.¹

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

- *for our Deacons as they seek to meet needs in our congregation and wider community
- *that all levels of government will address the issue of food insecurity in our communities
- *for persecuted churches in Yemen

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

BLESSING:

May our hearts sing of love
pouring out upon a tree.
May our hearts sing of peace
that can calm an angry sea.
May our hearts sing of joy
in forgiveness, grace, mercy.
May our hearts sing of faith
in a God who sets us free.
May our hearts sing of life
lived well and abundantly.
May our hearts sing, always. Amen.⁵