

INSPIRED WORD

March 30, 2016

PRAYER

Let's praise the Lord here in this place and raise our voices, along with the voices of the heavenly choir – those millions of angels who stand before the throne of God, all those who have died before us, and the saints in heaven, giving praise to the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. So Lord we thank You for this privilege. O Jesus, we, as Your people, come together in this place tonight, to raise high Your holy Name. Father, we give You thanks for calling us to be Your sons and Your daughters. O Spirit, we thank You for inhabiting our hearts and making us sons and daughters of the Father. O Spirit, we thank You for pouring forth Your gifts upon us for ministry, and to spread the love of Jesus. Glory to You! We thank You! Free us tonight that we might freely praise You from the depths of our being because You love us. You love us and call us Your own! Glory to You, O Lord! We give You praise in all circumstances! Glory to You!!

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11: 28 – 30: Come to Me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

EXHORTATION / PRAYER

Part of our problem is that we insist on carrying someone else's yoke, someone else's burden. We are not focused on taking the yoke of Jesus, for He says that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. It is proper for us to carry His burden, but it is not proper for us to carry the burden that men lay on us. Father, we thank You, we praise You and we exalt Your holy Name! You alone are worthy, worthy of all honor, worthy of all glory, worthy of all praise! Lord Jesus, we thank You, praise You and magnify Your holy Name, for You alone are worthy! Hallelujah to the Lamb, the holy Risen Lamb of God, for He is risen indeed!!

SHARING

This was talked about in my Bible class - that whenever there are clouds, they represent God's Presence. I thought that was a powerful reminder that it might seem gray and gloomy, but that is God; He is really there surrounding us.

EXHORTATION / SCRIPTURE

I think that if there are still any burdens present here, the Lord wants to give us this word of assurance, - that He is in control! That He is here among us, and He wants us to give to Him our burdens! He wants those burdens which we insist on carrying by ourselves. He wants us to surrender all of them to Him! **We need to learn how to let go!!** In **Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 27:** "For thus says the Lord God; I Myself will look after

and tend My sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend My sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel. In good pastures will I pasture them, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground. There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel. I Myself will pasture My sheep; I Myself will give them rest, says the Lord God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal. The trees of the field shall bear their fruits, and the land its crops, and they shall dwell securely on their own soil. Thus they shall know that I am the Lord, when I break the bonds of their yoke and free them from the power of those who enslave them.”

PROPHECY / SENSE / SCRIPTURE / EXHORTATION

The Lord is saying to us, “You have just sung the words – ‘You have overcome, You have overcome’. Do you truly believe that I **have** overcome? You heard all of the places that I have rescued My sheep. What place might you be in, that you think you are beyond My rescue? There is no place beyond My rescue! I have overcome, and I overcame with the great love poured out from My Father’s heart for each and every one of you.” I just sense the Lord is asking us to take a few minutes of quiet, and listen deep in our hearts. If there is a place where you think that He cannot rescue you, just say it to Him. Or, if you are not sure, just say that to Him as well. Or, if there is fear, just let Him know what you are feeling. He wants to speak directly to your hearts. Today’s gospel was about the Road to Emmaus where two of them were going to the village of Emmaus. As they walked, Jesus walked up to them, but they didn’t recognize Him until later. They said, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road?” (**Reference: Luke 24: 13 – 32**) So let’s take a few minutes and speak directly to the Lord of that place that you are in, and hear Him speak to you; so that our hearts may be burning within us.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 6: 2 – 6, 8 – 11: We have died to sin, how then can we go on living in it? For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with His death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. For since we have become one with Him in dying as He did, in the same way we shall be one with Him by being raised to life as He was. And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on His cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin. Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that Christ has been raised from death and will never die again – death will no longer rule over Him. And so, because He died, sin has no power over Him; and now He lives His life in fellowship with God. In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus.

IMAGE / PROPHECY

For quite awhile now, I have been having the image of a person whose heels are dug into the soil. The Lord is calling to that person, but they don't really want to go in the direction that the Lord is calling them. The Lord comes up from behind, puts His arms around that person, and says, "Let go! I've got you!" The person then just falls into the arms of the Lord. The Lord is saying, "Trust Me, just trust Me!! I've got you!"

PRAYER

As many of you know, Father Paul Wicker will be retiring the end of May, and a new pastor will be coming into this parish. I would like to pray for Father Paul for this time of transition for him. I know it is difficult for him as he has been here for 35 years. He loves the people here and he has given his life for all of us here. Let's pray for him that the Lord may give him new vision as to where God is leading him. I pray too that God may be his strength and consolation as he goes through these next few months. I pray too for the parish staff who are understandably upset about it, also maybe trepidation as to not knowing what the future has in store. I pray that the Lord may bestow upon them His peace. I pray for all of the people here in this parish who are saddened about this change, that the Lord may sustain all of them as well, and give them hope and consolation. I pray too for the selection of a new pastor. Lord Jesus, we ask that You would make that selection of the right person to come here to this parish as our new pastor. Lord, You know who that person would be; and we ask You to make straight the way for this person, the right person, as our new pastor here at Holy Apostles Church. I ask that we keep all of those intentions in prayer over the next few weeks until the end of May. Father Paul has asked us to pray for him!

(Praying for individuals here tonight who need hands-on prayers from the people here in this assembly)