

Worship for Wednesday
March 25, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

O Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A READING FROM ISAIAH 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

PSALM 40:5-11

- 5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!
 how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
 there is none who can be compared with you.
- 6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
 but they are more than I can count.
- 7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
 (you have given me ears to hear you);
- 8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
 and so I said, "Behold, I come.
- 9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
 'I love to do your will, O my God;
 your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
 behold, I did not restrain my lips;
 and that, O LORD, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *
 I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great
 congregation.

A READING FROM LUKE 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

A SHORT REFLECTION

Today, we observe the Feast of the Annunciation. This is the great feast of the Church when we remember Mary's acceptance of God's invitation to be the Mother of Jesus. (This means only 9 months until Christmast!!)

In today's reading from Luke one thing that catches my attention is the phrase "she was much perplexed by this". Mary was perplexed by all that she was hearing and seeing and experiencing. But this sentiment is very appropriate for us in our day. I,

like Mary, am much perplexed by all that I am experiencing. The uncertainty, the anxiety, the eagerness to “get back at it”, the economic implications, and, most strikingly, the death and hurt caused by this disease.

Today reminds us that God is the one who can help us make sense of perplexing times. Mary trusted in God and God guided her step by step. May we trust in the presence and love of Jesus in our lives. May we trust Jesus to guide our steps in the days to come and help turn our perplexity into confident understanding.

Prayers

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Lord, hear our prayer; and let our cry come to you.

A Collect for the Annunciation

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care those who are battling the coronavirus. Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for you dear Name's sake. *Amen.*

May we go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.