



GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

MAKING READY FOR WORSHIP

What items will you bring with you into worship today? Candle, hand cross, stone, seasonal cloth, bible, oil, bread, water, wine or juice?
Something else?

What do you need to leave with God as this moment of worship comes to a close?

Come to the words as often as you want and need during the week. *How To Read For Meaning Making*, can assist in your reflection and worship time. My prayer is that as you enter into your own spiritual reflection that GOD would be very present with you, and you are reminded that you are not alone. In this time we are all here with you.

May GOD's richest blessings be upon you in the days to come.

AS WE BEGIN

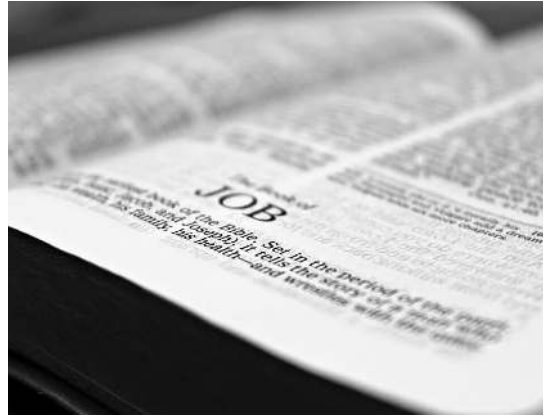
Take a moment or two to settle into your seat, to still your mind and prepare to meet GOD in this moment. A prayer of invocation asking God to be present with us here and now.

GOD of love, GOD of Wisdom

In your words today reveal to us
the places of transformation
needed within us.

Open our eyes to see,
our ears to hear,
and our hearts and minds
ready to be transformed in you.

We pray this in the name of the
Christ who loves and redeems us. **Amen.**



The set readings for this week are from Year B. The seasonal colour is green.

Proper 24 (29 Ord) - October 17, 2021

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1-10

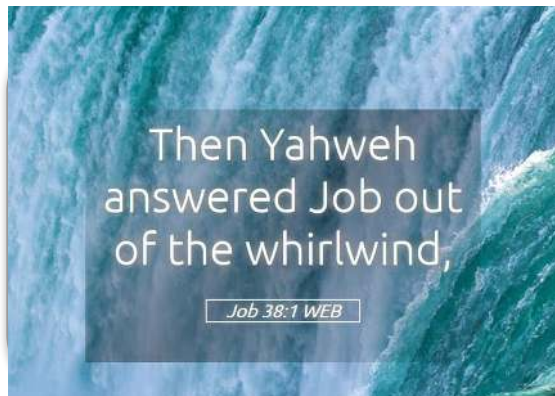
Mark 10:35-45

SUFFERING IN THE FACE OF GOD

As we continue to journey with Job on the path of suffering we find ourselves lamenting in the silence of God. Job continues to be confident in integrity through the criticisms and assumptions by his friends Bildad, Zophar and Eliphaz. Adamantly they tell him that what is happening must be because of sins that Job committed. Through all this, God is silent. It isn't until ch. 38 which we read this week when God enters the conversation in what is known as the "the Divine Speeches". When God speaks to Job, God does not answer the questions Job has been asking, but rather launches into the first speech with a style akin to Egyptian name lists or catalogues of things (*Onomastica*). These start with heaven and the stars, deal with meteorological phenomena like rain and thunder, the earth and water, persons and their occupations, towns and buildings, land and products, and end with parts of animals.

Have you ever experienced the magnitude of God in all of God's glory?

God's response to Job is very clear and a deliberate reminder of God's immeasurable qualities. The mysteries of God not known by man. In the end all Job can do is be reconciled with the wisdom of God, knowing that God acts as God wills.

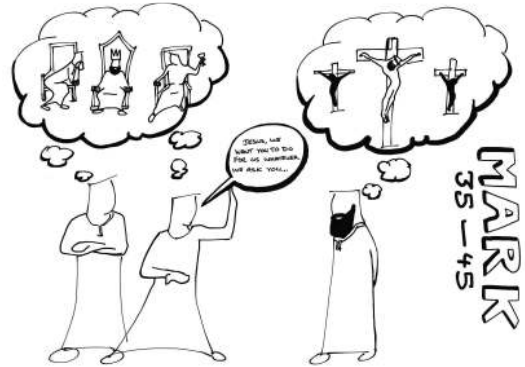


GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark 10. 35-45

The expectation of the disciples and all those who had been following Jesus, was that he was speaking of a kingdom which was imminently coming into being. James and John ask to be seated on the right and left-hand side in the place of highest honour. They make assumptions not only about the kind of kingdom that is to come, but also about their place within it. They assume greatness when it is not theirs to take. Jesus, upon hearing, challenges their request with the suggestion that they have no idea what it is they are asking for, nor what is in store for Jesus. Jesus, doesn't rebuke them, but instead uses this as another "teachable" moment to indicate the differences between the kingdom that He speaks of, and the kinds of kingdoms and rulers that they exist in. Jesus continues the conversation with the existential offering of the reversal that must be made in their own thinking. To truly live, one who wants to be first must be last. One who wants glory, receives no glory but must serve all. Jesus ends by saying that He came to serve and to give his life for the ransom of many. Again, giving voice to the place he has as Messiah. In Mark's gospel this conversation takes the position of immediately before the *Triumphal Entry* into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of the week of passion leading to the cross and resurrection.

Think back to a moment when you bargained with Jesus not unlike the brothers. When you wanted to be "big-noted" for the works you have done or your place of importance within the community.



How did Jesus confront you with the heart truth that is sometimes hard to hear?

How did you feel in that moment of recognition that your intentions were misplaced?

These are the moments for confession.

What did Jesus say to you with wisdom, compassion and grace?

BIBLE VERSE of the WEEK

Mark 10. 43-33

“

But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.

”

WAYS TO PRAY

PRAYING THE PICTURES OF THE SCRIPTURES

Create word pictures in your mind of some of the scenes from scriptures we read about. The vivid pictures of Jesus throughout the Gospels can stimulate prayer but can be used with many other scriptures too.

It is meeting God through story. The prayer develops as you “live into” a Scripture story with all your senses and imagination. You become a participant in the story, and you continue in the story in your heart, mind, imagination, spirit and body after the reading ends. You let the Spirit guide the prayer - you don't force anything to happen - you let it happen to you, within you, around you. For a more detailed outline of this practice click the image to the right.



NEW WORDS

Lament

Grief or sorrow expressed in complaints or cries; lamentation; a wailing; a moaning; a weeping. Most often in the form of song or poetry. The passionate outpouring verbally or physically of grief.

Onomastica

Onomasticon is the Latinised writing of a Greek word (plural: onomastica) used by Egyptologists for ancient Egyptian compositions comprising lists of words by category. ... However, the order and selection of words provide an implicit guide to the categories into which the Egyptians divided the world.

PRAYER PROMPTS

PRAYING THE PICTURES OF SCRIPTURE

Practice it: There are hundreds of word pictures in Scripture and many ways to pray each one in fresh ways. The simplest question to hold in this space is *what is God inviting you through your senses to notice anew in this reading?*

Here are a few to get started:

Peter walking on the water

(Matt. 14:22-33)

God informing Moses that His name is I am

(Ex. 3:14)

Jesus with the little children on His lap

(Mark 10:13-16).

Jesus Heals A Demon Possessed Boy

(Luke 9. 37-43)