

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

14th April, 2021

Psalm 99

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy.
Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him.
We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.
Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.

LITANY OF PRAISE:

O Lord, you are faithful from age to age!

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,18-21,26-37

For as with the human body which is a unity although it has many parts – all the parts of the body, though many, still making up one single body – so it is with Christ. We were baptised into one body in a single Spirit, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as free men, and we were all given the same Spirit to drink. And indeed the body consists not of one member but of many. God has put all the separate parts into the body as he chose. If they were all the same part, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ and nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ Now Christ’s body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole. *The word of the Lord.*

REFLECTION: (Fr.Ian Petit OSB)

Just as you cannot have a bonfire with just one twig, we in the church need one another to make us strong. God intended humankind to live as a family, but not a family on its own, rather as an extension of the family of the Trinity. Just as the Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the

Spirit – they are three persons forming one Godhead – so also the human family, made up as it is of many individuals, is intended to be linked together by the very fact that they each have a share in the divine life.

The Fall put an end to God’s plan, but through the redemption won by his Son, we humans can share in the divine life, even here on earth, by receiving that life into our spirits. We still have our own individual life, but we are also given new life in Christ, and this means all those who share that new life are linked together.

If I share life with another I can both help or hinder that life and the same is true the other way round. Those who believe in Jesus do not just form a group with a common belief, they form a body, the body of the resurrected Christ who wishes to remain in the world so that he can serve His Father in us, and can minister to us through each other.

When Jesus taught us to pray, he did not tell us to say ‘My Father . . . give me this day . . .’. In teaching us to say ‘our’ he was emphasizing the way God looks at his creation. He also taught that it was not possible to love God without loving our neighbour. We may well think that we are able to love God without loving our neighbour, but that is because we equate loving God with a feeling rather than seeing it as an act of the will to love God and all that he has made.

The tragedy is that the Church has become divided, and although we are in the process of getting back together, there are still innumerable, and at times seemingly insurmountable, obstacles. What should be uniting us together is not a liking for this or that, rather it should be a concern to see Christ proclaimed.

INTERCESSIONS:

Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

CLOSING PRAYER: (Thomas Ken)

**O God, make the door of this house
wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship;
narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.
Make its threshold smooth enough
to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet,
but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter’s power.
God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom.
Amen.**

