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Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Proverbs 8:32–9:6; 1 Peter 2:1-3; Psalm 134

The welcome to the Eucharist is often given as, "Taste and see that the Lord is indeed good!" First Peter reminds us that we should welcome one another in the same way the Lord welcomes us, without any hurt or attack on character or person; rather, we should be like newborns, experiencing one another for the first time.

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Exodus 24:1-11; John 21:1-14

The reading from Exodus precedes the giving of the Ten Commandments. Prior to receiving the normalizing rules from God for God's people, there is a covenant made between God and the people. Moses is led by God to act upon the covenant on behalf of the people, giving us the example of the priest leading worship. While we no longer make animal sacrifices to God, thanks be to God's later direction, we continue to share in the covenant in that we begin worship with the invocation, confession and forgiveness. We are joined in trust before hearing the word of God. May we begin each of our days in like manner.

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Exodus 2:15b-25; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Psalm 23

We seem to always hear Psalm 23 at a funeral and I continue to be amazed by the number of people who are able to repeat Psalm 23, but forget the words to the Lord's Prayer. There are similarities to this psalm of David and the Lord's Prayer; however, psalm 23 is about us and about what God does for us. It is a very intimate and individual prayer that can bring comfort to any of us in times of trial. Be encouraged by the reassurance we receive in repeating psalm 23, then also repeat the Lord's Prayer so that others may be assured of God's love, as well.

Friday, May 5, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Fear God. Honor the Emperor. First Peter again challenges us in our views of human rule and of God's rule. Often, we speak of God's justice and the justice of the law and yet we fail to fully understand the difference. God's justice may not always feel comfortable to us for God indeed forgives the penitent murderer, the penitent thief, and on and on. Human justice continues to seek an eye-for-an-eye, which is not where we are to be in our lives as Christians. Further complicating our understanding of justice is the fact that God has given us good order and has provided us with law and rule of the land as cooperative norms for society. First Peter implies here that if we are living in fear of God, then we shall avoid foolishness, which is to say that if we're following God's law (Ten Commandments), then we need not worry about whether or not we honor the rule of the land. Likewise, we shall know whom we serve and to not raise up our human leadership to a God-like level. Be assured in your faith and in your service to the Lord. The rest is in God's hands, thanks be to God!