



God's Word for This Week


POWERSCOURT WITH KILBRIDE
SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2020

The Collect of the Day

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
Grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 41:17-20

¹⁷ When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the Lord will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
¹⁸ I will open rivers on the bare heights,*
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.
¹⁹ I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,
²⁰ so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.



In the flowering buds
and passing seasons
God speaks eternal
presence and constant
watchful care.

'As long as earth endures, seedtime and
harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter,
day and night will never cease.'
GENESIS 8:22

The Epistle Reading - 1 Peter 3:13-22

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, * and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. * Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered* for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you* to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for* a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Gospel Reading - John 14:15-21

15 'If you love me, you will keep* my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,* to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in* you.

18 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

The Psalm

7 Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
8 Who holds our souls in life
and suffers not our feet to slip.
9 For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
10 You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of
liberty.¹² I will come into your house with burnt
offerings and will pay you my vows,
which my lips uttered and my mouth promised

when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices
with the smoke of rams;
I will sacrifice oxen and goats.
14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
15 I called out to him with my mouth
and his praise was on my tongue.
16 If I had nursed evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me,
17 But in truth God has heard me;
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my
prayer,
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

Reflective Pointers for Prayer

On the First Reading

Again, through the Prophet Isaiah, we hear of God's reassurance that he is with us through examples of all that he provides (in the wording of this particular scripture much needed water is supplied to human and land alike)

²⁰ *so that all may see and know, all may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.* Not only are we required to be grateful but to allow the recognition of all the gifts God provides to stand as evidence that he cares and provides for us.

How aware are you of the particular gifts surrounding you in your life? Has this time of Pandemic allowed you time to reflect on what is necessary and unnecessary in your life?

Father, open our eyes to see and our minds to understand our true needs and the things in life that are surplus to our needs. Teach us gratitude for your gifts and your presence with us.



Keys to the Kingdom

**When a lot
has been
stripped away
what are the
'Constants'
in your life?**

On the Epistle

This reading speaks of a Christ consciousness and conscience! If we are to follow Christ's lead and sincerely welcome his presence in our lives then we are constantly learning and evolving towards him. Suffering is part of our human condition but we are not alone in this as Christ himself knows first-hand suffering humanity.

In what areas are you suffering at present? Do you know someone who is suffering now? Ask Jesus' powerful presence to draw close to yourself or that person and guide your way of thinking into an understanding of Christ that removes fear.

On the Gospel

It is remarkable that, no matter what came upon Jesus in his lifetime here on earth, his first priority was to his followers and those in need. He took time in parables and examples to implant wisdom within their hearts and minds of the way to live that draws us close to God in this lifetime and beyond. This Gospel reading is no exception. Jesus is still reassuring his disciples of his presence with them and his ability to help them as they go on through their lives by the power of the Spirit which will come upon them. He is

quick to point out that the world will not know this Spirit but those who believe in Christ will know him intimately because he will dwell within them. Such reassuring words at a time like this in our own lives!

Perhaps today you could invite that Spirit to inhabit you anew; to guide and protect you that, through you, God may be glorified and his peace and light shone throughout the world. Jesus admits that he will 'reveal himself' to you if your heart desires it.

