

CONGREGATIONAL READINGS — November 22, 2020

Leader / Congregation

Reading #1: Psalm 103 (NIV)

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;

the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children—

with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

Reading #2: “Nothing But the Blood” (song #902)

Words & Music by Robert Lowry (1876)

WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN?

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

WHAT CAN MAKE ME WHOLE AGAIN?

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

[chorus in unison]

OH, PRECIOUS IS THE FLOW THAT MAKES ME WHITE AS SNOW

NO OTHER FOUNT I KNOW, NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

FOR MY PARDON THIS I SEE

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

FOR MY CLEANSING THIS MY PLEA

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

[repeat chorus]

NOTHING CAN FOR SIN ATONE

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

NAUGHT OF GOOD THAT I HAVE DONE

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

[repeat chorus]

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Reading #3: “God Is the Fountain Whence” (song #117)

Words by Benjamin Beddome (1817) • Music by Lowell Mason (1839)

[unison throughout]

GOD IS THE FOUNTAIN WHENCE TEN THOUSAND BLESSINGS FLOW
TO HIM MY LIFE, MY HEALTH AND FRIENDS, AND EV'RY GOOD I OWE

THE COMFORTS HE AFFORDS ARE NEITHER FEW NOR SMALL
HE IS THE SOURCE OF FRESH DELIGHTS, MY PORTION AND MY ALL

HE FILLS MY HEART WITH JOY, MY LIPS ATTUNES FOR PRAISE
AND TO HIS GLORY I'LL DEVOTE THE REMNANT OF MY DAYS

Reading #4: “Stand By Me” (song #971)

Words by C. A. Tindley (1923) • Music by F. A. Clark (1923)

[unison throughout]

WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME
WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME
WHEN THE WORLD IS TOSSING ME LIKE A SHIP UPON THE SEA
THOU WHO RULEST WIND AND WATER, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME

IN THE MIDST OF TRIBULATIONS, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME
IN THE MIDST OF TRIBULATIONS, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME
WHEN THE HOSTS OF HELL ASSAIL AND MY STRENGTH BEGINS TO FAIL
THOU WHO NEVER LOST A BATTLE, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME

WHEN I'M GROWING OLD AND FEEBLE, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME
WHEN I'M GROWING OLD AND FEEBLE, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME
WHEN MY LIFE BECOMES A BURDEN AND I'M FACING CHILLY JORDAN
O THOU LILY OF THE VALLEY, STAND BY ME, STAND BY ME

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Reading #5: Matthew 26:17-30 (NASB)

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

*He replied, “**Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”** So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.*

*When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, “**Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.**”*

*They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?” Jesus replied, “**The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.**”*

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”

*Jesus answered, “**You have said so.**”*

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “**Take and eat; this is my body.**”*

*Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “**Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.**”*

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Reading #6: Ezra 3:10-13 (NIV)

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel.

With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: “He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.”

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise.

And the sound was heard far away.

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Reading #7: 2 Chronicles 3:3-9 (NIV)

The foundation Solomon laid for building the temple of God was sixty cubits long and twenty cubits wide (using the cubit of the old standard). The portico at the front of the temple was twenty cubits long across the width of the building and twenty cubits high.

He overlaid the inside with pure gold. He paneled the main hall with juniper and covered it with fine gold and decorated it with palm tree and chain designs. He adorned the temple with precious stones. And the gold he used was gold of Parvaim.

He overlaid the ceiling beams, doorframes, walls and doors of the temple with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls.

He built the Most Holy Place, its length corresponding to the width of the temple—twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide.

He overlaid the inside with six hundred talents of fine gold. The gold nails weighed fifty shekels. He also overlaid the upper parts with gold.

Reading #8: 2 Chronicles 36:15-20 (NIV)

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place.

But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy.

He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the Lord’s temple and the treasures of the king and his officials.

They set fire to God’s temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power.

Reading #9: “Give Thanks” (song #68)

Words & Music by Henry Smith (1978)

[unison throughout]

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART, GIVE THANKS TO THE HOLY ONE

GIVE THANKS BECAUSE HE’S GIVEN JESUS CHRIST, HIS SON

[repeat once]

AND NOW LET THE WEAK SAY, “I AM STRONG,” LET THE POOR SAY, “I AM RICH,” BECAUSE OF WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR US

[repeat once]

GIVE THANKS.....GIVE THANKS.....GIVE THANKS