

Passiontide Promise

Daily Morning Prayer During the Last Two Week of Lent



St Mary's LINTON

Rooted in God. Rooted in Community

On Tuesday - reflection by Lindi

*O, dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do (C F Alexander)*

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving power among the nations.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
your only Son was lifted up
that he might draw the whole world to himself.
May we walk this day in the way of the cross
and always be ready to share its weight,
declaring your love for all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;**

(Taizé community)

Tuesday Psalm 142 and a reading from Isaiah


1 Give judgement for me, O God, and defend my cause against an
ungodly people; ♦
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

2 For you are the God of my refuge; why have you cast me from you, ♦
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?

3 O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, ♦
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,

4 That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness; ♦
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, 
and why are you so disquieted within me?

6 O put your trust in God; 
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

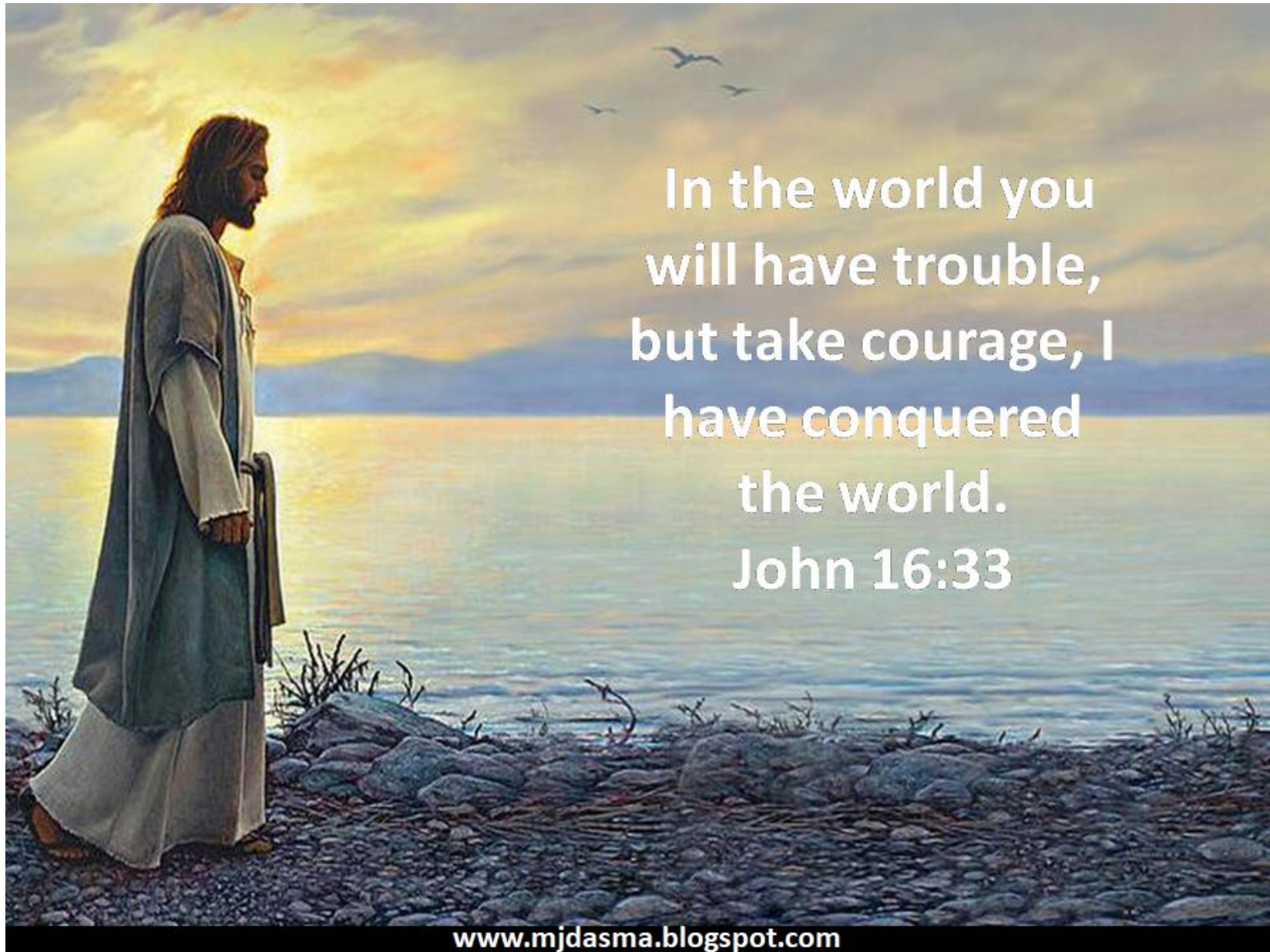
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53.4-6

Reflection



In the world you
will have trouble,
but take courage, I
have conquered
the world.
John 16:33

I have been reading John's gospel and yesterday morning came to John 16: 29-33, and it was so pertinent, he says:

*The hour is come, indeed it has come, when you will be **scattered, each to his own home**, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you face persecution. But take courage: I have conquered the world!*

We are social beings, we gather together, we enjoy each other's company, we are tactile. There is a synergy when we pray and worship together, during these difficult frightening times when we were all told to stay indoors when we are **scattered each to his own home** it feels strange and the structure of our lives has been altered.

I was taking my exercise yesterday and met some friends and we stood on either side of the road, and I said to them we are acting very strangely in that the people we love the most we are distancing furthest from.

In the John passage it says **Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me**, and we are not alone we have the thoughts and prayers of everyone else who also has the Father with them. So many people are doing small acts of kindness and big acts of kindness and when all of this is over I very much hope that we will continue to do acts of kindness.

To enjoy and appreciate so much which we have taken for granted to smell the flowers, to touch the bark of a tree, to wonder at a sunset, to hear and marvel at birdsong, to enjoy a game of scrabble with friends or Sunday lunch with family and wonder at the beauty of the universe within this still small voice of calm.

As an optimist, I am attracted to how our isolation is played out in beautiful ways, like the universal languages of love laughter, and support. The example of coronavirus, though, illustrates another, and equally valid side of our isolation, as we are forced through technology, via zoom, to come together to devise solutions amidst our shared vulnerability.

I have friends in the NHS and they are being incredibly courageous, they were all extremely touched by last Thursday's applause and we must continue to applaud and support all those who are working so hard to keep us safe.

Yesterday Russell and I went outside to applaud our bin men they were surprised but tiny gestures can brighten someone's day, (I am reminded of the verse from Hebrews: do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.)

I am taking this time to enjoy reading all those books on my to do list, for writing, for painting, for gardening and to enjoy the company of my recently retired husband. I am phoning people and being phoned by people, there is a feeling of fellowship and even though we are isolated there is a feeling of us all being in this together.

Jesus said take courage and we can be courageous because we have him beside us, as Isaiah 43:1 says, 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.' What a delight that he knows our name; that we are more than a statistic, a number or a nameless identity.

There is blessed rest and security in this. When you are fearful, the one who knows your name will be your comfort. When you are lonely, the one who knows your name will be your solace.

When you are weary, the one who knows your name will give you strength. And when you feel weak, the one who knows your name will fill you with courage and power. Thank God that he knows our names.

And finally a prayer:

Lord our God,
when your son Jesus had to pass through trials,
he knew that you were with him
and he committed himself into your hands.
In this way he brought peace to people.
As people baptized into his name,
let your spirit help us to be brave
when suffering and difficulties come our way,
that, like your son and with him,
we may overcome evil in ourselves
and in the world.
May our pains give birth
to love and peace and hope for others.
We ask you this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Tuesday Week One: II Jesus is given his cross

*He gives himself again with all his gifts
And now we give him something in return.
He gave the earth that bears, the air that lifts,
Water to cleanse and cool, fire to burn,
And from these elements he forged the iron,
From strands of life he wove the growing wood,
He made the stones that pave the roads of Zion
He saw it all and saw that it is good.
We took his iron to edge an axe's blade,
We took the axe and laid it to the tree,
We made a cross of all that he has made,
And laid it on the one who made us free.
Now he receives again and lifts on high
The gifts he gave and we have turned awry.*







Malcolm Guite

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

We preach Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.
By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

**The word of the cross is folly
to those who are perishing,
but to those who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, 
who has come to his people and set them free.
2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, 
born of the house of his servant David.
3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old 
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
4 To show mercy to our ancestors, 
and to remember his holy covenant.
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: 
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6 Free to worship him without fear, 
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The word of the cross is folly
to those who are perishing,
but to those who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

With faith and love and in union with Christ,
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,
for whom your Son laid down his life:

God of love, hear our prayer

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

God of love, hear our prayer

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,
and deliver them from evil:

God of love, hear our prayer

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:
God of love, hear our prayer

Bring comfort to the dying,
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:
God of love, hear our prayer

Give rest to the departed
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:
God of love, hear our prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,
set us free to serve him with joy.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements:

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