

A New Birth to a Living Hope

Praying through the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday, June 4, 2020

Invitation to Prayer

During times of crisis,
in moments of doubt,
during periods of isolation,
through seasons of uncertainty...
we place our trust in our loving God.

Let us open our hearts to God's word.
In communion with the saints,
in solidarity with the suffering,
and united with all people of good will,
we pray for all whose lives have been impacted
by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scripture

Lamentations 3:7-26

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore, will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

Readings are taken from Lectionary for Mass, Volume IV,

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Pandemic Beatitudes

by Mark Y. A. Davies

- Blessed are the mask wearers, for they help keep persons of sacred worth from dying alone and scared, separated from family and friends.
- Blessed are those who care for the sick and comfort the dying, for they are the presence of Beloved Community.
- Blessed are those who mourn the dead rather than minimize their death, for they will retain their humanity.
- Blessed are the scientists searching for treatments and vaccines, for they are bearers of hope.
- Blessed are the food providers for those who can and cannot pay, for they are sustainers of life.
- Blessed are those who keep their distance, for they allow our beloved ones to remain close.
- Blessed are those who refuse to profit unjustly from the pandemic, for they bear witness to justice and common decency.
- Blessed are employers who keep workers safe, for they value life over profit.
- Blessed are leaders who make compassionate decisions based upon knowledge and evidence, for they forge a wise path.
- Blessed are the truth tellers, for they provide the best information possible to keep all of us safe
- Blessed are those who do not use the pandemic to divide us, for they work for the common good of all.

Concluding Prayer • Perseverance

O God,
our rock of safety and our shelter in stormy times,
listen to our cries and calm our fears.
Help us to persevere through these difficult days
with renewed faith,
with trust in your compassionate care,
and with the patience to hold on until a better day dawns.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

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