

Lenten Midweek Service
The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
Wednesday, March 9, 2022

THE OPENING SPEECH

“A Sleeping Disciple”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Habakkuk 2:1-3

I will stand at my watch

And station myself on the ramparts.

I will look to see what He will say to me,

And what answer I am to give to this complaint.

Then the Lord replied, “Write down the revelation

And make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

For the revelation awaits an appointed time.

It speaks of the end and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it.

It will certainly come and will not delay.”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Kings 19:1-8

19 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

³ Elijah was afraid^[a] and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴ while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵ Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” ⁶ He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

⁷ The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” ⁸ So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

PSALM 121

Stanza 1

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,

The Maker of Heaven and Earth.

He will not let your foot slip.

He who watches over you will not slumber.

Indeed, He who watches over Israel

Will neither slumber nor sleep.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:36-

46a

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go!

A THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

PSALM 121

Stanza 2

The Lord watches over you.

The Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun will not harm you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm.

He will watch over your life.

The Lord will watch over your coming and going,

Both now and forevermore.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to be made brave and vigilant witnesses for our Redeemer. Creator God, You know better than we do that without Your help, we are far from equal to the enormous task and precious privilege You have placed before us. You have already made available all that we need to pursue Your will with joy and courage. Teach us, Lord, to embrace those living tools.

We pray to You, O Lord.

Help us to reach out to each other for strength and encouragement. By means of Your gift of faith, teach us to place faith in one another. Keep us from the temptation to compete with one another in pursuit of any other purpose outside of serving You. In so doing, teach us to rejoice in all the victories that Your people achieve in Your name.

We pray to You, O Lord.

Keep us aware of all of the opportunities of service that are around us constantly in the lonely, suffering, and confused lives of the people with whom we come into contact. Take away our fear of embarrassment or rejection, and fill us with the joy of witnessing.

We pray to You, O Lord.

(Other petitions may be offered.)

All this we pray in Jesus' name, saying: ***Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

BENEDICTION