

## Ukraine Vigil ... Sunday February 27, 2022

### ❖ Scripture to reflect on ...

**Psalm 102** *A prayer of one afflicted, when faint and pleading before the Lord.*

Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.

For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace. My heart is stricken and withered like grass; I am too wasted to eat my bread. Because of my loud groaning my bones cling to my skin. I am like an owl of the wilderness, like a little owl of the waste places. I lie awake; I am like a lonely bird on the housetop. All day long my enemies taunt me; those who deride me use my name for a curse. For I eat ashes like bread, and mingle tears with my drink, because of your indignation and anger; for you have lifted me up and thrown me aside. My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever; your name endures to all generations. You will rise up and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to favor it; the appointed time has come. For your servants hold its stones dear, and have pity on its dust. The nations will fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth your glory. For the Lord will build up Zion; he will appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and will not despise their prayer.

Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord: that he looked down from his holy height, from heaven the Lord looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die; so that the name of the Lord may be declared in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem, when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, to worship the Lord.

He has broken my strength in midcourse; he has shortened my days. “O my God,” I say, “do not take me away at the midpoint of my life, you whose years endure throughout all generations.”

Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you endure; they will all wear out like a garment. You change them like clothing, and they pass away; but you are the same, and your years have no end. The children of your servants shall live secure; their offspring shall be established in your presence.

### **Psalm 6**

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, or discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror. My soul also is struck with terror, while you, O Lord—how long? Turn, O Lord, save my life; deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love. For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who can give you praise?

I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eyes waste away because of grief; they grow weak because of all my foes.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck with terror; they shall turn back, and in a moment be put to shame.

## **2 Chronicles 20:12**

O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

## **Jeremiah 31: 15-17**

Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

## **2 Corinthians 1: 3-10**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

## **Isaiah 41: 8-10**

But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

## **John 14: 18-27**

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They 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." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

## ❖ Prayers

God of infinite mercy and goodness, with grateful hearts we pray to you today for Peace. You offer us your peace continually and constantly remind us that peacemakers are blessed, “for they shall be called children of God”. May your voice resound in the hearts of all throughout the world, as you call us to follow the path of reconciliation and peace, and to be merciful as you are merciful.

We pray to you for the people of the Ukraine who are experiencing conflicts and deaths. Bless government leaders with wisdom, vision and perseverance needed to build together a world of justice and solidarity, and to break down walls of hostility and division.

To you we entrust all families and pray that they may never yield to discouragement and despair but become heralds of new hope to one another in this challenging time.

May you continue to inspire all of us to unity of heart and mind, to work generously for the common good, to respect the dignity of every person and the fundamental rights which have their origin in the image and likeness of God impressed upon every human being.

Grant eternal rest to the dead and quick recovery to the wounded, we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, Servant and Master, Bringer of Peace and Reconciliation, with deep sorrow and concern, we cry out to you for this war now occurring in Ukraine. We long for you to work in the hearts, minds and decisions of those who can put an end to this violence and destruction, to bring this war to a just end, and for your protection for all innocent victims and everyone directly involved in military action, in Ukraine and in Russia. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Holy and Gracious God, we pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders. We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear. We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness. We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace. We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine. And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy. Amen

God of peace, You come to us in quiet and in stillness; help us to know that you are here in this moment. May we trust in you when we are afraid, and when we are weary and tired, may we seek refuge in Your gentle and loving arms. Grant us peace this day, and help us to know that we are safe, that we are loved, and that you hold us all in the palm of your hand. Amen.

God, We sigh. We sigh because words cannot express our anguish, our hurt, our despair, knowing that siblings in Ukraine are fleeing their homes for their lives, that the cities and towns that hold memories and culture and history may be destroyed. Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans that the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And so we sigh as we come to you in prayer.

May our sighs remind us that we all share the same air; that what impacts one of us impacts all of us; that life is precious to God and war is never necessary.

May our sighs be a prayer for every Ukrainian who worries about surviving today; for those who will not survive this invasion; for those who will survive and be forever changed by the trauma of war; for those Russian soldiers who question their orders and refuse to use their weapons.

May our sighs be a prayer for nuclear deproliferation; for an end to the sin of imperialism and colonization.

May our sighs be a prayer for truth, peace, and solidarity to guide each of us; may our sighs be a prayer for Ukraine and the whole world.

May our sighs fill our bodies with air to breathe through grief and fear and fill us with courage and connection, so that we are ready to act in solidarity with Ukraine, for an end to this war and all war.

May our sighs fill us with hope, remind us of our faith and inspire in us trust. Through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

Heavenly father, we come before you with prayers for the children in the Ukraine. Lord, we know this is scary for them as they hear words like fire and bombs and threat and they don't understand. May you give them your peace and the courage to listen to their parents and teachers if they are feeling stressful in this situation. Lord, keep them safe.

For parents, Lord, we ask you to give them wisdom. Give them the right words to say to their children to keep them safe but aware; give them a sense of peace and protection. Be ever present around them. Make yourself known to them. We know you are there and watching over them. Help them stand firm in their faith and lean on you, Lord.

For teachers, Lord, we ask you to give them a calm spirit to help children remain calm. Give them wisdom to protect and encourage. Lord, keep them safe too. Help them know when they are going to their work at school that you will be protecting their families as well.

Especially, Lord, we pray for peace. Protect the people and surround them with your grace and mercy. Calm anxious hearts and minds. Show us how we can love and support our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine. Jesus, we cry out to you because we know we need you and the peace you can bring. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.