

Prayer

This reading is from the Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, the 5th chapter (ESV)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers,¹ you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be

sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

(Here Ends this Reading.)

This reading is from the Book of Psalms, Psalm 90 (ESV)

(to be read responsively)

Reader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place

Congregation: in all generations.

R: ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

C: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

R: ³You return man to dust

C: and say, "Return, O children of man!"

R: ⁴For a thousand years in your sight

C: are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

R: ⁵You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,

C: like grass that is renewed in the morning:

R: ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

C: in the evening it fades and withers.

R: ⁷For we are brought to an end by your anger;

C: by your wrath we are dismayed.

R: ⁸You have set our iniquities before you,

C: our secret sins in the light of your presence.

R: ⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath;

C: we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

R: ¹⁰The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;

C: yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

R: ¹¹Who considers the power of your anger,

C: and your wrath according to the fear of you?

R: ¹²So teach us to number our days

C: that we may get a heart of wisdom.

R: ¹³ Return, O LORD! How long?

C: Have pity on your servants!

R: ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

C: that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

R: ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,

C: and for as many years as we have seen evil.

R: ¹⁶ Let your work be shown to your servants,

C: and your glorious power to their children.

R: ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

C: and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter. (ESV)

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.