Called to Be Prophetic: An Advent Evening Prayer

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Prepared by Rachelle Kramer, D.Min. · December 6, 2020

Call to Prayer We wait in silence.

We wait in hope.

We long for an end to the darkness and trials

that surround us. O Wisdom Incarnate, come into our lives. Teach us your way,

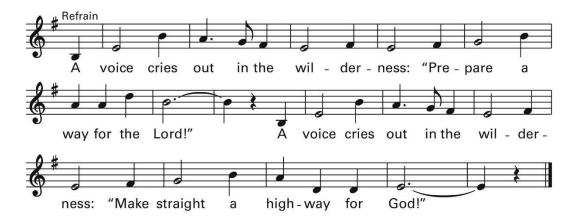
and lead us on the path that brings light and life.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come.

Song of Meditation | O Come, O Come Emmanuel, arr. by Jeanne Cotter

Song & Scripture | A Voice Cries Out, Mark 1:4-8



Prayer

Emmanuel, God-With-Us,

as we continue to prepare our hearts for your coming, we ask for the courage to be more like John the Baptist, not sitting by silently, but crying out

and speaking words that are challenging to hear.

Help us to be prophetic, to take action when we see injustice and others suffering around us.

Keep us from being complacent,

and give us the strength to choose what is right over what is easy. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

Reading | Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* (nos. 73-74)

The parable [of the Good Samaritan] then asks us to take a closer look at the passers-by. The nervous indifference that makes them pass to the other side of the road – whether innocently or not, whether the result of disdain or mere distraction – makes the priest and the Levite a sad reflection of the growing gulf between ourselves and the world around us. There are many ways to pass by at a safe distance: we can retreat inwards, ignore others, or be indifferent to their plight. Or simply look elsewhere, as in some countries, or certain sectors of them, where contempt is shown for the poor and their culture, and one looks the other way, as if a development plan imported from without could edge them out. This is how some justify their indifference: the poor, whose pleas for help might touch their hearts, simply do not exist. The poor are beyond the scope of their interest.

One detail about the passers-by does stand out: they were religious, devoted to the worship of God: a priest and a Levite. This detail should not be overlooked. It shows that belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others. The guarantee of an authentic openness to God, on the other hand, is a way of practicing the faith that helps open our hearts to our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom expressed this pointedly when he challenged his Christian hearers: "Do you wish to honor the body of the Savior? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honor it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold." Paradoxically, those who claim to be unbelievers can sometimes put God's will into practice better than believers.

Brief Reflection | Rachelle Kramer

Are you a prophet or a passer-by?

Personal Reflection

- What does it mean to be prophetic today?
- How are you being called to be prophetic in your own life?
- What prevents you from being prophetic and a "truth-teller?"

Reflection Song | The Summons



Intercessions

Lord's Prayer



Join us for our next prayer on Facebook Live

In the Style of Taizé

Sunday, December 13, 9:00 PM Eastern wisdomsdwelling.com

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Scripture: Mark 1:4-8 NABRE.