Psalms: Psalm 123 as reimagined by Nan C Merrill

To You I lift up my spirit;

You, who are enthroned

in every heart!

For, as the young child holds tightly the hand of its parent,

As those in the throes of disease

look to one who brings comfort,

So our spirits seek the Heart of Love,

that we might find mercy

and forgiveness.

Have mercy on us, O Compassionate One,

have mercy,

that we might turn from our blind and ignorant ways.

Too long our souls have been veiled

by fear and illusion.

Have mercy, lead us to the path of wholeness, that we may know the abiding Peace of the Beloved.

For the glory of the Book of Psalms and the faith of those who have gone before us.

We give thanks.

Pentecost 25A Readings 15-11-26

Epistle: Hear words of faith from Paul's letter to the Galatians 6:1-10

Sisters and brothers, if one of you is caught in any sin, the more spiritual among you should correct the offender in a spirit of gentleness—remembering that you may be tempted yourselves. Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

But if you think you are important when you are not, you are deceiving yourself. Examine your own work, each of you. If you find something to boast about, at least it's something of your own and not just empty comparison with your neighbour. Carry your own load!

Those under instruction in the word should always contribute to the support of the instructor.

Don't be deceived — God cannot be cheated: where you sow, there you will reap. If you sow in the field of self-indulgence, you will reap corruption. If you sow in the field of the Spirit, you will reap the harvest of eternal life.

Never grow tired of doing good. We will reap a harvest at the proper time—if we don't grow weary. So, while we still have time, do good to all and especially to those of the household of faith.

For the faith and witness of the Early Church.

We give thanks

Gospel: Hear words of faith in the Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents. 'His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

For the stories of Jesus and the beloved community.

We give thanks.