Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Trinity Church, Boston - Peacocks

""Part of what [Ascension] means is that all the stuff that mattered about God becoming one of us still matters. His whole self, divine and human, ascends to the Father, and so Jesus is still God for us, fully God and fully human."
– Beth Felker Jones

"While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him." –
Augustine of Hippo

"Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia
there thy face unclouded see, Alleluia
find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluia."
– Charles Wesley

The author of 1 Peter is writing to provide comfort and reassurance for hose who face or will be facing persecution due to their following of Jesus. First Peter reminds his readers that Christ suffered; therefore, they should not be surprised when Christians also suffer. Christians are to remain humble and let God exalt them. They are not to be anxious, for God cares.

How do you reassure yourself of God's care for you when you are anxious?

I Measure Every Grief *by Emily Dickinson*
I measure every Grief I meet
With narrow, probing, Eyes —
I wonder if It weighs like Mine —
Or has an Easier size.
I wonder if They bore it long —
Or did it just begin —
I could not tell the Date of Mine —
It feels so old a pain —
I wonder if it hurts to live —
And if They have to try —
And whether — could They choose between —
It would not be — to die —
I note that Some — gone patient long —
At length, renew their smile —
An imitation of a Light
That has so little Oil —
I wonder if when Years have piled —
Some Thousands — on the Harm —
That hurt them early — such a lapse
Could give them any Balm —
Or would they go on aching still
Through Centuries of Nerve —
Enlightened to a larger Pain —
In Contrast with the Love —
The Grieved — are many — I am told —
There is the various Cause —
Death — is but one — and comes but once —
And only nails the eyes —
There's Grief of Want — and Grief of Cold —
A sort they call "Despair" —
There's Banishment from native Eyes —
In sight of Native Air —
And though I may not guess the kind —
Correctly — yet to me
A piercing Comfort it affords
In passing Calvary —
To note the fashions — of the Cross —
And how they're mostly worn —
Still fascinated to presume
That Some — are like My Own —