Street Psalms

Prayer of Vocation

“The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.” Isaiah 50:4

INVOCATION

Gracious God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Life: have mercy on us. Reveal yourself in all things, to all things and through all things.

Grant us the gift of becoming a community of the Incarnation, mystery of Word made flesh, who sees and celebrates you at work in the world, especially in the hard places. Give us the tongue of a teacher to sustain the weary with the word and free people from all walks of life to love their city and seek its peace with the Gospel of Jesus.

MISSIONED INTO BEING

Mystery of Word made flesh, as the Father sent you, so send us. Send us into our cities, our neighborhoods and our families to bear witness to your Spirit poured out on all flesh.

Send us as a community in mission with ways of seeing, doing and being that frees us to create cities of peace for all people where everyone belongs. Fill us with your Spirit and attune us to the heart of the One in whom there is no violence, who is in rivalry with nothing, not even death. Teach us what it means that you desire mercy, not sacrifice. Remind us of what we so easily forget: that we belong to one another, including the enemy-other. Send us, O Lord, as you were sent – for the joy set before you, occupying the pain and the shame of the world with your healing love.

A BED

Creator of Sabbath Rest, our souls are restless until they rest in you.

Gentle us into an unclenched moment, a deep breath, a letting go. Soften us in your silence. Unmake us in your mercy as we enter your rest. Awaken us with a holy kiss and breathe into us the breath of life that we might embody our most sacred vocation: to become fully human and be one with you and all creation.

A BATH

Giver of Life, baptize us again in the sea of your love, where we release our useless fears and relax into your mercy.

Inside this new love we die to all that is false. By your power made perfect in weakness, raise us into the mystery of life. Speak to us again the truth of our deepest identity hidden in you: “You are my child whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” As deep calls to deep, may the real us meet the real you, holding nothing back.

A MEAL

Host of the Mercy Meal, nourish our love-starved souls; we are hungry and thirsty for life.

In the same way that you took the bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to your disciples and said, “Do this in remembrance of me”, may we too be taken, blessed, broken, and given in your love, that we might become the spoken word of your love in a hurting world. Forgive us for the ways we grumble at your table and resist your hospitality, for the ways we stuff ourselves in fear, and starve ourselves in shame. As we celebrate at your open table, where there is always enough and where everyone belongs, open our eyes Lord to you – the hidden host, the stranger among us, the forgiving victim, who reconciles all of creation. May we become what we receive.

CALL TO PEACEMAKING

Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace and a sign of your unity in the world, that we might act, reflect and discern like you.

May our wounds and the wounds of this world become wombs of new creation, bearing seeds of new life. Free us, O Lord, to be midwives to the holy in all things. Where there is blindness, call forth the gift of sight. Where there is voicelessness, call forth the gift of voice. Where there is despair, call forth the gift of joy. Where there is isolation, call forth the gift of community. Where there is fear and violence of any kind, call forth the gift of your peace, born of your love.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us because she has anointed us to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

We pray all of this in the name of the Father who is for us, the Son who is with us and the Spirit who unites us all in the never-ending dance of love.

Amen.

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