

Daily Office Devotional, Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Proper 27, the week of the twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. David W. Perkins, Th.D.

Today we celebrate the Feast of Leo the Great. (See below.)

Daily Office Lectionary Readings:

AM Psalm 78:1-39; PM Psalm 78:40-72

Joel 1:15-2:2(3-11); Rev. 19:1-10; Luke 14:25-35

Morning Prayer, Rite 2, page 75, Book of Common Prayer

Evening Prayer, Rite 2, page 115, Book of Common Prayer

Compline (Night Prayer), Page 127, Book of Common Prayer

Daily Office Epistle, Revelation 19:1-10

19:1After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God, 2for his judgments are true and just; he has judged the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants.' 3Once more they said, 'Hallelujah! The smoke goes up from her forever and ever.' 4And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying, 'Amen. Hallelujah!'

5 And from the throne came a voice saying, 'Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear him, small and great.' 6Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; 8to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. 9And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' 10Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

David's Reflections

The Revelation offers several scenes of the end, dramatic images of God's intervention to fulfill our salvation and usher in the new creation. This particular vision develops Isaiah's image of our final salvation as a great feast, the marriage supper of the Lamb. Yesterday's reading took us back to Jesus' meal ministry with outcasts and to our inviting those without faith to come to Jesus by faith and share in the Eucharistic feast. This reading presents an image of that final meal that all our celebratory meals anticipate.

Each Sunday we celebrate Holy Eucharist, a sacred meal invoked by Jesus on his last night with the disciples and continued in the early church each Lord's Day. We believe that Holy Eucharist anticipates the final banquet of salvation. In Holy Eucharist, we offer a prayer, the Great Thanksgiving, in which we give thanks for our salvation and call on Jesus to become present in bread and wine so that it becomes his body and blood. In the final banquet of salvation, we will see Jesus and he will host that celebratory meal. In that banquet the realities of our salvation, experienced in part in this life, especially at the Holy Table, will be experienced fully.

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Who IS invited? According to Jesus' meal parables, all are bidden. Ultimately, God intends to host everyone at this meal. Only the most obstinate and persistent resisters of God's love will succeed in excluding themselves. The Revelation (and the New Testament in general) envisions that day as one of triumph in which God will succeed in regathering most of God's children and bringing us to that salvation banquet.

How do we walk in harmony with such a God? By seeking to bring as many as possible to share in the sacred meal that anticipates that final banquet. How can we be at peace so long as one adult, one youth, one child in our community lives without a vital connection to the living God through Christ? God does not rest. God's love consistently pulls, persuades, invites, draws. To walk in harmony with that God means we do the same. How reminiscent of yesterday's parable and of Jesus' eating with outcasts.

Collect of the Day, Proper 27, the twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen. (BCP, 236)

Today we celebrate the Feast of Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, Doctor of the Church (died 10 Nov 461) http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Leo_Great.htm

Collect of the Feast of Leo the Great

O Lord our God, grant that your Church, following the teaching of your servant Leo of Rome, may hold fast the great mystery of our redemption, and adore the one Christ, true God and true Man, neither divided from our human nature nor separate from your divine Being; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.* (BCP, 123)

For Vocation in Daily Work

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* (BCP, 261)

A Prayer for Light

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, 110)

A Collect for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* (BCP, 100)