

The Rev. F. David Throop '71
Pastor, Placentia Presbyterian Church

Monday, December 13, 2010

Morning Psalms 122; 145

First Reading Isaiah 8:16-9:1

Second Reading 2 Peter 1:1-11

Gospel Luke 22:39-53

Evening Psalms 40; 67

1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever. 2 Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever. 3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. 7 They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and bounding in steadfast love. 9 The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, 12 to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. 14 The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. 15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. 16 You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. 17 The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. 19 He fulfils the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. 20 The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

In the Old Testament, the word “Lord” is a reference to God. However, for followers of Christ, the word “Lord” in the Old Testament often implies Christ. While Psalm 145 is an Old Testament reading, we who are followers of Christ understand it as a psalm which clearly speaks of our Lord Jesus: *“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise!” “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.” “The Lord is righteous in all his ways . . . and is near to all who call on him.”* Don’t these descriptions also proclaim what we truly believe about Christ? Christmas is all about Incarnation—God taking on human form in order that what was foretold might be fulfilled in Christ for each one of us!

Prayer: Gracious Lord God, during this Advent season, thank You for the gift of Jesus, truly the culmination and perfection of Your grace, compassion, and love. In his strong name we pray. Amen.