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Thursday, December 2, 2010

Morning Psalms 18:1-20; 147:12-20

First Reading Isaiah 2:5-22

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Gospel Luke 20:27-40

Evening Psalms 126; 62

1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken. 3 How long will you assail a person, will you batter your victim, all of you, as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence? 4 Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence. They take pleasure in falsehood; they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. 5 For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. 6 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God rests my deliverance and my honour; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. 8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. 9 Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. 10 Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. 11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, 12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

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We Christians are admonished to pray constantly. So we do. We almost besiege God with our constant prayers. It's kind of like the scene in the movie *Bruce Almighty*, where Jim Carrey's character is so overwhelmed by all the prayer requests coming in that he nearly goes crazy. We pray for ourselves. We pray for others. We pray for healing and strength and help and peace and food and shelter. We might even remember to give God thanks for the things that God has blessed us with. And it's all good. But sometimes we're so busy telling God what we want that we forget to listen for God's answer. Just as we wait for God's in-breaking into the world during this Advent season of waiting, let us begin to practice the silence of listening and wait for God's in-breaking into our hearts and lives, into our very souls.

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Prayer: Acknowledging O God that all I am is a gift from you, I ask that you help me to live today fully and completely for you. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.