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Friday, December 3, 2010

Morning Psalms 102; 148
First Reading Isaiah 3:1-4:1
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Gospel Luke 20:41-21:4
Evening Psalms 130; 16

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. 8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

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Eugene Peterson translates verse one of Psalm 130 this way: "Help God, the bottom has fallen out of my life! Master, hear my cry for help!" Unfortunately, hopelessness is an all too common human cry. Have you ever gone through a period in your life when you felt that the words that you intended for God's ear were pouring out of your mouth, yet you thought that God was not listening? Yes, you say? Well, you are not alone. We all have times like this.

Fortunately, Psalm 130 speaks to us during these difficult times. The Psalmist provides us with helpful words while we wait, words that help us to find hope!

"O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord, there is steadfast love." (Psalm 130:7) As we light the candle of "Hope" during the first week of advent, find your hope in the Lord!

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Prayer: Dear God, during this season of Advent, teach us where to find our hope. Thank you for the hope that is found in Jesus!