

The Rev. Dr. Donald McKim '74
Executive Editor, Theology and Reference, Westminster John Knox Press

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Morning Psalms 33; 146

First Reading Isaiah 5:18-25

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Gospel Luke 21:29-38

Evening Psalms 85; 94

1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. 3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. 4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. 5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; 7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; 8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. 9 The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. 10 The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Advent is for anticipation. God's promised Messiah is coming. God's promises are being fulfilled.

There is no better Advent action than praising God's greatness and goodness, God's help for the world and us. Psalms 33 and 146 provide language for this praise, exalting God for who God is and what God has done.

Climatically the psalmist proclaims: "The Lord will reign forever" (Ps. 146:10). This God loves "righteousness and justice." The earth is "full of the steadfast love of the Lord" (Ps. 33:5). This God is our "help and our shield" (Ps. 33:20). No wonder "our heart is glad" in God because we "trust" in God's "holy name" (Ps. 33:21)! As Calvin said, "whether living or dying, we shall be safe under the keeping of a king who reigns expressly for our salvation" (Comm. Ps. 146:10).

Prayer: O God, in Jesus Christ, your promises come true. We praise, we trust, we rejoice! Amen.