

Wednesday, December 19th, 2012

Bishop William Boyd Grove '78, Distinguished Alum '88

Scripture:

Psalm 17: 1-8

- 1 Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
- 2 From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.
- 3 If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.
- 4 As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
- 5 My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped
- 6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.
- 7 Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.
- 8 Guard me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings,

Devotional:

Do you ever cry out to God to protect you, to save you? Are you crying now? There are many powers that threaten us, both without and within. I write this on Veteran's Day. How many young men and women, far from home at Christmas time, living in the midst of battle, afraid for their lives cry out in anguish"...., "Hear a just cause O Lord, attend to my cry?" How many children facing bullying in school, terrified to leave home in the morning, cry out in the deepest places in their hearts "...hide me in the shelter of your wings." How many victims of family abuse hide in the closet in terror crying out, "hear a just cause of Lord, and attend to my cry." How many persons fighting addictions of all kinds, desperate for release from their bondage, whisper in the darkness of the night "guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shelter of your wings."

Jesus, in the prayer he gave to us, taught us to pray for our safety, our spiritual and moral safety. "Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil.

So, as the great Festival of Christmas draws near, we pray for safety and deliverance for all who are in any danger, physical moral, and spiritual.

Prayer:

Let us pray: Loving God, during these Advent Days, as we anticipate the coming of the Star Child, we pray for safety for ourselves and for those whom we love and for all your children everywhere. Keep us, we pray, as the apple of your eye, safe in the shadow of your wings. In Christ, Amen