

Thursday, December 6th, 2012

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Scripture:

Psalm 126:

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 3 The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- 5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
- 6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Devotional:

For the first time in her life, beloved Alisha is spending the Advent season in a memory care facility. Alisha is physically healthy, but Alzheimer's disease has ravaged her brain, leaving her unable to care for herself. She has become too difficult for her children to manage as they provide for their own children. Despite daily visits from her children, Alisha feels abandoned and alone. Her children feel guilty. It is a time of sadness with no hope of recovery, at least not in Alisha's lifetime. Still, in the midst of this disease, there are good times. In moments of lucidity, Alisha expresses her love for her children in a way she never has before. We must take the bitter with the sweet. But the Psalmist reminds us that bitter is never the end. “Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy.” The Christ is coming!

Prayer:

God of all things, give us patience to deal with the trials in life. Grant us patience to wait with you until we see the Light. Amen.