

Tues., Dec. 6, 2011

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## Scripture

Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

## Devotional

We know Advent as a time of waiting, when we anticipate the birth of Jesus, but in reality, our entire lives as Christians are lived in a time of waiting and anticipation. We say in the Lord's Prayer: "Your

kingdom come, Your will be done.” Yet even as we celebrate Christ’s victory over sin, we know too well that, in our time, sin and brokenness and sorrow persist. And so we wait. But how?

Psalm 146 reminds us that faithful waiting isn’t simply passive. Instead, we’re called to wait actively, courageously: to put our hope in the Lord, and to follow God into those places where God would use us to bring justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry, care for the most vulnerable. Our efforts will never save the world on their own, but that’s not our job. Our call is to bring all that we have to the work of being active, living witnesses to our hope through Jesus Christ.

### **Prayer**

Holy God, give us the courage to trust in the fulfillment of your kingdom. Lift us out of resignation and indifference so that we can clearly see the needs of those around us and the signs of your restoring work in our midst, so that we can see where you would have us be a witness, today, to our hope in you.

Amen.