

DAY SEVEN READING AND PRAYERS

Morning Reading

Scripture Text: Luke 12:32-34; 16:9-15

“I spend myself for you, so that you may have me for yours. I have travelled everywhere among you for your own sake, in many dangers, and even to the furthest parts where nobody lived beyond, and where nobody ever went to baptize and to ordain clerics or to bring people to fulfillment. It is only by God’s gift that I diligently and most willingly did all of this for your good.

“At times I gave gifts to kings, over and above what I paid to their sons who travelled with me. Despite this, they took me and my companions prisoner, and very much wanted to kill me, but the time had not yet come. They stole everything they found in our possession, and they bound me in iron. On the fourteenth day, the Lord set me free from their power; all our possessions were returned to us for God’s sake, and for the sake of the close friendship we had had previously.” Confession 51, 52

Morning Prayer

God, owner of all and giver to all, I owe you all that I have as from you. Teach me to spend little for my own needs, and to give much for the spread of the good news in Christ, and to the benefit of the needy or poor. Help me, Lord, to give myself water that I may give others wine in comparison. Use me as a model for kingdom living.

Noon Reading

“You know yourselves how much I expended on those who were the judges in those regions which I most frequently visited. I estimate that I gave out not less than the price of fifteen persons, so that you might benefit from me, and that I might benefit from you in God. I’m not sorry I did it, nor was it even enough for me — I still spend, and will spend more. The Lord is powerful, and he can grant me still to spend my very self for the sake of your souls.” *Confession 53*

Noon Prayer

Father, your word says to “use worldly weath to gain friends for yourselves that when it is gone they will welcome you into eternal dwellings.” Help me, and Central, to prioritize the use of our possessions and resources for making disciples of Jesus among unreached peoples and their training in obedience to his teachings. Let us spend and be spent, like Patrick, for no other purpose.

Evening Reading

Scripture Text: Philippians 3:7-11; Timothy 4:6-8

“I see that already in this present age the Lord has given me a greatness more than could be expected. I was not worthy of this, not the kind of person the Lord would do this for, since I know for certain that poverty and calamity are more my style than riches and enjoyment. But Christ the Lord became poor for us; I too am wretched and unhappy. Even if I were to wish for riches, I do not have them. I am not trying to judge myself, since every day there is the chance that I will be killed, or surrounded, or be taken into slavery, or some other such happening. But I fear none of these things, because of the promises of heaven. I have cast myself into the hands of almighty God, who is the ruler of all places, as the prophet says: ‘Cast your concerns on God, and he will sustain you.’

“Now I commend my soul to my most faithful God. For him I perform the work of an ambassador, despite my less than noble condition. However, God is not influenced by such personal situations, and he chose me for this task so that I would be one servant of his very least important servants.” *Confession 55, 56*

Evening Prayer

Guard my heart, Father, that I seek only approval and reward from you. Conform me to Christ so that he is formed in me. Toward that end, if I need to have little, then may I lose all that keeps me from you. Sustain me. Sanctify me. Have your way with me. I entrust my living and fate to you. So be it!