

DAY FOUR READING AND PRAYERS

Morning Reading

Scripture Text: Proverbs 30:7-9

“While we were still on the journey, the Lord provided food and fire and shelter every day until we met some people on the tenth day. As I mentioned above, we travelled for twenty-eight days through the wilderness. On the very night we met people, we ran out of food.”

Confession 22

Morning Prayer

Give us each our daily needs, Father, and help me to open my hands to give to others what they also need each day. With food and clothing teach us, your people, to be content. Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me my daily necessities.

Noon Reading

“A few years later I was again with my parents in Britain. They welcomed me as a son, and they pleaded with me that, after all the many tribulations I had undergone, I should never leave them again. It was while I was there that I saw, in a vision in the night, a man whose name was Victoricus coming as it were from Ireland with so many letters they could not be counted. He gave me one of these, and I read the beginning of the letter, the voice of the Irish people. While I was reading out the beginning of the letter, I thought I heard at that moment the voice of those who were beside the wood of Voclut, near the western sea.¹ They called out as it were with one voice: ‘We beg you, holy boy, to come and walk again among us.’ This touched my heart deeply, and I could not read any further; I woke up then. Thanks be to God, after many years the Lord granted them what they were calling for.”

Confession 23

¹ Voclut (or Foclut) is unknown.

Noon Prayer

God, you inspired Patrick to return to the race of people who had once killed his fellow citizens and forced him into captivity. Your love for both of them motivated you to send him. To whom are you speaking today and where among the faithless might you send them? Are you leading me or someone dear to me, Father? “Even though you walk in the valley of the shadow of death . . . I am with you.” Help me, Lord, to hear and heed the Holy Spirit.

Evening Reading

Scripture Text: Psalm 35

“One time I was put to the test by some superiors of mine. They came and put my sins against my hard work as a bishop. This hit me very hard, so much so that it seemed I was about to fall, both here and in eternity. But the Lord in his kindness spared the converts and the strangers for the sake of his name, and strongly supported me when I was so badly treated. I did not slip into sin and disgrace. I pray that God not hold this sin against them . . . They brought up against me after thirty years something I had already confessed before I was a deacon . . . However, it was very good for me, since God straightened me out, and he prepared me for what I would be today.

“So on the day I was accused by those I mentioned above, that same night I saw in a vision of the night some writing before my dishonored face. In the middle of this, I heard an answer from God saying to me: ‘We have seen with displeasure the face of the one who was chosen deprived of his good name.’ He did not say: ‘You have seen with displeasure,’ but ‘We have seen with displeasure,’ as if he were identifying himself with me; as he said ‘He who touches you as it were touches the pupil of my eye.’”

Confession 26-29

Evening Prayer

Lord God, though Patrick had worked hard to serve you faithfully, he was sorely tested by unfair, one-sided accusations against him, one of which was about a sin he had long before confessed to a confidante. I admit, Lord, that sometimes conviction of my sins or youthful wrongs still weigh me down. I am also tempted to condemn when people criticize me. Teach me to entrust my vindication to you, Lord, to be quick to hear, slow to speak, to love always, and pray for the good of all who oppose me. May Christ-likeness in me be your defense of me. Help me to wait upon you, Lord, for I trust in your love for me.