

7-12-15

Pastoral Prayer

John was sent ahead like a voice before a word, a lamp before the sun, a herald before a judge, a servant before his master, the best man before the bridegroom. ...
... Let us, too therefore, prepare a way for the Lord who is to come into our hearts. Let us remove the barriers of sin by confession and repentance; let us straighten the paths of our life which for too long have been undirected and devious; let us pave the way of true faith with good works. Let us rid ourselves of all arrogance and lift high our fainting hearts. Then, when all is in order, smoothed, and brought into harmony, we shall see the salvation of God as God is, for “God’s home is in peace and his dwelling in Zion.”

-Rabanus Maurus, Archbishop of Mainz
c.784-856

I pray that God will “look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish God’s purposes on earth...” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 815)

Call to Offering

Let us offer our first and our best to further the work of God’s church in the world.
The morning offering will now be received.

Benediction

Go forth now with joy and thanksgiving knowing deep in your heart the love that God sealed in you through the promise of the Holy Spirit. Go and spread the good news of God’s love for all as you are called to by your baptism. Go now in peace to love and serve God. Amen.