

11-1-15

Pastoral Prayer

God hears our prayers. Let us pray this prayer titled Christ Be With Me, attributed to St. Patrick. May it strengthen us...

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me. Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every [one] who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. Amen.

Stewardship Thought

In February 1862, President Lincoln's son Willie died, and his son Tad became seriously ill. A Christian nurse attending the sick child recalled that the president watched by his bedside and often paced, saying, "This is the hardest trial of my life. Why is it? Why is it?"

She told him that she was a widow and that her husband and two children were in heaven. She saw the hand of God in it all and never loved God so much as she did after her great trials.

"How is that brought about?" inquired Lincoln. "Simply by trusting in God and knowing that God does all things well," she replied.

"Did you submit fully under the first loss?" he asked. "No," she answered, "not fully. But as blow came upon blow, and all were taken, I could and did submit." Lincoln replied, "I'm glad to hear you say that ... I will try to go to God with my sorrows." After a few days, she asked him if he could trust God. He replied, "I think I can. I will try. I wish I had that childlike faith you speak of, and I trust God will give it to me."

Call to Offering

We are ordinary people capable of extraordinary things. We humbly offer ourselves to you God. Our morning offering will now be received.

Commissioning and Benediction

Do not send God away. God is walking with you. Go with God's guidance!

Where you go, God goes. Where you stay, God stays. God's people are our people!

God is good, all the time and all shall be well. Amen.