2021 04 24 WAC-Int'l ZOOM EUCHARIST

"I AM"

Greetings

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ASHIK NAZ 1.Reading: Marc 12,30:

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

Introduction

Loving God with all my heart, soul and strength: that comes easily to me on some days. Then my certainty is great that there is a God who created the whole world and holds it in his hands; that he loves and cares for every single person and also for me. I am sure that I can get in touch with him. That is good and healing to know, to feel, to experience.

But there are also days when it is anything but easy to believe in a being, an energy, a "person" that exists beyond my imagination and has an effect on us. Sometimes it even seems quite absurd to me.

What helps on such days?

First of all, there are great experiences I have had; which I cannot explain in any other way than a direct communication of God with me. He has made himself tangible for me. It helps a lot to remember that.

It also helps in my view of the world, nature, the macrocosm and the microcosm, which cannot be created by humans at all.

It helps me to connect and communicate with people who believe the same.

And the Bible helps too. There is one passage that is particularly good for me: Moses at the burning bush. God says, "I am. I exist. I exist."

Let's listen to this ancient narrative:

2.Reading: Moses and the burning bush

Moses kept the flock of his father-in-law Jitro, the priest of Midian. One day he drove the beasts through the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire, which smote out of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but not burned. "That's weird," he said to himself. Why doesn't this bush burn? I have to take a closer look at that." When the Lord saw that Moses was coming to take a closer look at it, he called him out of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" answered Moses. "Don't come nearer," God commanded him. Take off your sandals, because you stand on holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face, for he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said to him, "I have seen my people oppressed in Egypt. And I heard her screaming. I know how much it suffers. I have come to save them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them out of Egypt into a beautiful, vast land, a land where milk and honey flow over...

I have heard the cry of the Israelites, and I have seen them oppressed by the Egyptians. Now go, for I send you to Pharaoh. You shall bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" asked Moses God. He answered, "I will be with you. And this shall be the proof that I have sent you: if you have brought the Israelites out of Egypt, you will serve me on this mountain." But Moses said, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you," and they then ask me, "What is his name?" then what shall I answer them?" God answered, "I am who I always am. Just say to them, "I am."

Song: There is a God, he is alive https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZOycliNiTk

Exchange: What helps me to believe in this great "I AM"? How come that I believe in God?

Song: Je vieux voir dieux (canon)

PROFESSION OF FAITH (all)

I believe in one God who made us all and whose divinity infuses all of life with the sacred.

I believe that Jesus Christ, the unique son of God, is the face of God on earth in whom we see best the divine justice, divine mercy, and divine compassion to which we are all called.

I believe in the Christ who is One in being with the Creator and who shows us the presence of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the woman Mary, pure in soul and single-hearted — He grew as we grow through all the stages of life. He showed us the Way, lived it for us, suffered from it, and died because of it so that we might live with new heart, new mind, and new strength. "On the third day" in the tomb, He rose again. He changed all of life for all of us thereafter. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God on earth, who keeps the Christ vision present to souls yet in darkness.

I believe in one holy and universal church.

I look for life eternal in ways I cannot dream and trust that creation goes on creating in this world and in us forever.

Joan Chittister, excerpts of Creed, from <u>In Search of Belief</u>

Kyrie:

Moses came down from the mountain. He was so full of grace that his forehead shone, it is said. Then he met his people, who danced around the Golden Calf. What anger must have gripped him! And then 40 years followed through the desert, and he himself saw the Promised Land only from afar before he died.

We all started with faith in God and love for our Church. Often enough, the anger has gripped us in the face of many of "our people" dancing around the Golden Calf: power, money, abuse – even our leaders dance around it.

We need the mercy of God for us and our Church so that we can continue in the service of renewing our Church.

Song: Could we start again please

Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Light, you heal us and bring us strength.

Heal your church and bring her strength.

Replace the turbulence within her with a holy relaxation, a sacred calm and a quiet confidence.

Replace the fear within us with the sweetness of grace and a strong faith.

We ask this in Jesus' holy name. Amen

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

It's now time to ask the Holy Spirit to come down on these earthly gifts we have prepared and transform them:

Here we have bread which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life, the body of Christ. R. Blessed be God for ever.

Here we have wine, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our redeeming drink, the blood of Christ.

R. Blessed be God for ever.

Preface and Sanctus

God, our Loving Father and Mother, we rejoice that you are our Creator who blesses us with every good gift. Through the mystery of this sacred meal, nourish us with health of mind and body, change of heart, and devotion for one another. Strengthen us; send your light upon us; fill us with zeal; renew and keep us in your love.

God, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness and we praise you. We thank you especially for your Son, Jesus Christ. You sent him into this world to bring the good news and to show us how to live. He opened our eyes and our hearts to understand that we are one family and that you, God, are our Mother and Father. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (all)

When the time came for him to be glorified by you, Jesus showed the depth of his devotion.

He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to his friends, saying: Take this all of you and eat it: this is my body which will be given to you.

When supper ended, he took the cup. Again he praised and thanked you, gave it to his friends, saying:

Take this all of you and drink from it: this is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith: Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Communion (we eat and drink)

Song: Tu sei la mia vita

Gracious and ever living God, we truly give thanks for these Holy Mysteries, for this spiritual food and drink, for this opportunity for Holy Communion with You.

We belong to Jesus Christ – we are His hands that heal and caress, we are His feet to meet people, we are His arms to gather the lost and to defend the helpless, we are His tongue to proclaim His truth and encourage the gifted ones.

Mother/Father, you never forget any of your children; all are invited to your table. We ask that you take care of us — those who are gathered here today; those who could not be with us but are with us in spirit; our families and friends; and all your people. Fill us with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and may that same Spirit bring us closer together.

Remember God, those who have died and have gone before us. We believe they are at home with you so that they find light, happiness and peace.

Bring us all at last, together with Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother and St. Josef the caring foster father, and together with all the saints in order to live with you and be one with Christ.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom of God as Jesus taught us. Our Father... (in your own language)

Sign of Peace

Jesus, you said to your people: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you". Please grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live for ever and ever. The peace of Christ be with us.

Song: My Peace I Give You (Taizé Chant) - YouTube (02:11 min)

BLESSING

We will stand firm in our faith and our knowledge of God's love for us.

May Christ give us the grace to continue our lives in the spirit of this celebration; opening our hearts to God's grace, and extending God's healing love and forgiveness to all whom we meet.

In the name of God, the Creator; Jesus our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit who sustains us and brings joy to our lives. Amen.

Song: Why Worry, by Dire Straits.