

All Souls' Day Service of Remembrance - November 5, 2023

Psalm 88

Adapted from *Psalms for Praying, An Invitation to Holiness* by Nan C. Merrill

O Beloved, Heart of my heart,
I call to you for help by day;
I cry out in the night.
Let my prayer come before you,
bend your ear to my cry!
For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life seems like dust,
I have fallen into a pit of
despair;
I have no strength and
I feel powerless.
Lost among the dead,
like those who lie in the grave.
You alone can comfort me in this
abyss,
in the darkness of fear.
Separation from you is agony,
hopelessness threatens to
overwhelm me.
Through you alone can I pray for
those who ignore my plight.
I am in a prison, chained by fear;
I am weary of tears.
Every day I call upon you, O Beloved;
I lift up my hands in supplication.

Will you raise me from this
 living death?
Will you mend a broken heart?
Let not your steadfast Love pass
 by me;
Have mercy on me, O Comforter!

A Blessing for the Brokenhearted

By Jan Richardson, *The Cure for Sorrow*

There is no remedy for love but to love more.

—Henry David Thoreau

Let us agree
for now
that we will not say
the breaking
makes us stronger
or that it is better
to have this pain
than to have done
without this love.

Let us promise
we will not
tell ourselves
time will heal
the wound,
when every day

our waking
opens it anew.

Perhaps for now
it can be enough
to simply marvel
at the mystery
of how a heart
so broken
can go on beating,
as if it were made
for precisely this—

as if it knows
the only cure for love
is more of it,

as if it sees
the heart's sole remedy
for breaking
is to love still,

as if it trusts
that its own
persistent pulse
is the rhythm
of a blessing
we cannot
begin to fathom
but will save us
nonetheless.

Reading of the Necrology

Time of Reflection

The Blessing and the Dismissal

(From St. Mark's funeral service template)

The world is now too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love.

May your eyes be so blessed to see God in everyone and everything. Your ears, so you hear the cries of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak words that are only the truth, and with love. May your feet be so blessed, you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, your love, changes everything.

Go out into the world and know how much a tired and hurting world needs your strength and gladness, for there are deeds of compassion and courage that will never be done unless you do them. Know that words of hope and healing will never be spoken unless you speak them.

Let us go forth into the world in peace, to love and serve God and each other.

Amen.

Necrology 2023

Elizabeth Howell

Ira Miller

Margaret Mary Wood

Jan Hoffman

John Lindenburger

Linell Grundman

Mary Welker

Bertha Martin

Elizabeth Long

Mollie Falk

Don Bennett

Aldena Clifford

Dail Doucette

Joan Pierotti

Nancy St.Germain

Wes Moore

Paul Mahany

Beryl Maloney Lilliston

P. Wesley Foster Jr.

David Lawrenz

Beatrice "Betty" Rosemarie Rivard

Richard Laitres

Brother Ted Letendre, FIC

Chris Pala

Professor James L. Marsh

Mike Canning

Roger Spaeder

Bill Hewitt

John MacMurray

Joya Cox