



July 18, 2021

## Prayer : Conversations With God

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Preaching

**First Reading ~ Habakkuk 1:13, 2:1, 3:1-3a, 17-19**

How long, YHWH, am I to cry for help  
and you do not listen?  
Or cry to you "Violence! Oppression!"  
and you will not save?  
Why do you make me look upon wrongdoing and injustice?  
Why do you countenance tyranny?  
Outrage, destruction, and violence – this is all I see!  
All is contention and discord flourishes.  
So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.  
The corrupt triumph over the righteous  
and justice is perverted once again.

I will stand at my watchpost  
and station myself on my battlements,  
watching and waiting to see what God will say to me,  
what answers God will make to my complaints.

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet; a wild musical rant:  
YHWH, I have heard of your renown;  
your work, YHWH, inspires me with awe.  
In our own time revive it;  
in our own time make it known;  
in wrath may you remember mercy.  
God is coming from Teman,  
the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah

Though the fig trees have no buds,  
and no fruit is on the vine;  
through the produce of the olive tree fails,  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold,  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in YHWH,  
I will exult in God my savior.  
YHWH is my strength!  
God makes my feet as agile as a deer's,  
and teaches me to walk on my high places.

**Second Reading** ~ *adapted from Thomas Merton*

My God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Amen