

Lessons For Life

September 6, 2020

Lectionary Cycle:
Proper 18A

First Reading ~ *Psalm 119:33-40*

Teach me, YHWH, the ways of your statutes,
and I'll keep them to the end.
Give me discernment, that I may observe your Law
and obey it with all my heart.
Lead me in the path of your commands
-that is where I will find joy.
Draw my heart to your decrees
and not toward selfish gains.
Turn my eyes away
from looking at worthless things;
make me alive in your way.
Fulfill for your faithful your promise,
which is for those who revere and worship you.
Take away the reproach which I dread,
for your ordinances are good.
See how I long for your precepts!
In your justice, give me life.

Second Reading

~ *from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., April 4, 1967*

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just. America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to humanity as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies.