

“Take from My Heart All Painful Anxiety:” Catherine’s Courage: Second Prayer Service



Hymn: *Fountain of Life* Margaret Rizza

Ref. O fountain of life and infinite grace, unaltered by time, unhindered by space.
Immortal wellspring of holiness and peace; eternal, infinite love without cease.

Preserve and keep me all my days, in good intent and faithful ways.
And lead me to such holiness as mortal prayers cannot express. (Ref.)

Lord, lead me out and guide me in. Protect me both from fear and sin.
Enfold me in your constant love, with grace abundant from above. (Ref.)

Reading from: “Jesus of Galilee: Hope for a Globalized World in Despair,” Mary Doak,
RSCJ

Reader 1: To live as disciples of Jesus amid the unequal distribution of the world’s resources today, we cannot forget that Jesus died in Jerusalem in confrontation with oppressive power and exclusionary authority. . . . In our world today, this suggests that Christians must call for an end to structures of oppression, while bearing the double-edged knowledge that although another reality is truly possible, sin will not be completely defeated in this world. Thus martyrdom remains a constant possibility in Christian life. . . . Christians must be prepared for much of the world to continue to reject the reign of God and to defend its structures of power and domination with violence.

Reader 2: The gospels. . . do not reduce Jesus’ ministry to an entirely this-worldly reform project, and neither should we. The reign of the everlasting God is a hope beyond history, a hope that has inspired people to give their lives in witness against the ultimacy of the powers of this world. . . . the hope for the reign of God is a hope involved in this world, a confidence that God’s power can—and someday will—transform all aspects of human life. The reign of God. . . is not limited to heaven or to earth, to now or to later, to this world or to an afterlife.

Reader 3: Looking forward to a goal beyond history frees people to risk themselves, even against the odds, on behalf of others. Knowing that failure in this world is not ultimate or final can be a source of strength especially for those who are vulnerable and weak by the standards of the world. Women who struggle to escape prostitution in a condemning society, who are healing from rape in a war zone where they may well be attacked again, or who have little hope of finding sufficient food to feed their children may find peace and courage in the confidence that the ultimate destiny of humanity in the reign of God is beyond the

vicissitudes of this life. Keeping in mind that Jesus' death in failure led to the empowering victory of the resurrection ought to inspire all Christians joyfully and confidently to risk attracting the violence of the world by their commitment to the reign of God. This non-optimistic but thoroughly hopeful perspective should also inspire those of us Christians who are among the world's elite to risk the loss of our privileged position as we seek a more just and inclusive world.

Reader 4: The church has spread the gospel of Jesus throughout the world.... The hope in God's reign traveled with Jesus and his companions from Galilee to crucifixion and resurrection in Jerusalem, and from there to Egypt and Rome, to India and China, and to ...cities and towns in the U.S. and around the world. The beauty of Jesus's Galilean vision and the anticipatory experience of the reign of God remain an active hope for the transformation of the entire world. This hope is crucified daily among the suffering and impoverished of the world, and its frequently co-opted by the privileged to support the status quo. Yet is a hope that rises again and again as people encounter the power of God and are inspired to risk their lives, giving up security and privilege in order to build communities that recognize the value of all human beings."230-232

(In *Jesus of Galilee: Contextual Christology for the 21st century*, ed. Robert Lassalle-Klein, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2011).

[a period of silent reflection, followed by faith sharing, and intercessions for those needing courage and hope in one's own context of concern.]

Final Verse of Fountain of Life

Be there to guide me when I speak, to strengthen when my love is weak;
Be there to calm my final breath, and light the way to life through death. (Ref.)

Or with Catherine' "Suscipe"

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.

Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of

your compassionate, tender pity.

Grant me, O most merciful Redeemer,

That whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety;

Suffer nothing to sadden me but sin, nothing to delight me but the hope

Of coming to the possession of you, my God and my all,

In your everlasting Kingdom. Amen.