

Nelson Pinder Commemoration / July 12th

The Collect

Almighty and compassionate God, you kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant, Nelson W. Pinder, to provide bold leadership, manifested in non-violent action, with faith to combat the sin of racism. Inspire us to continue the cause of civil rights for all. Give us the grace to respect the dignity of every human being, for your Love's sake, Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading is from Prophet Isaiah (6:1-8)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We will read a portion of Psalm 27 responsively by verse

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

² *When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, **
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,
who stumbled and fell.

³ Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

⁴ *And though war should rise up against me, **
yet will I put my trust in him.

⁵ One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life;

⁶ *To behold the fair beauty of the LORD **
and to seek him in his temple.

⁷ For in the day of trouble he shall keep me
safe in his shelter; *
shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.

Glory to the Father...

The Epistle is from Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians

(12:1-11)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel according to Matthew

(25:35-40)

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

