

Opening Responses

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on
the church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be awakened.

Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.

Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful, comfort.

Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.

Here may the aged find consolation
and the young be inspired.

Through Christ Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

Psalm 82

God takes his stand in the council of heaven;
*** he gives judgment in the midst of the
gods:**

"How long will you judge unjustly, *** and show
favor to the wicked?**

Save the weak and the orphan; *** defend the
humble and needy;**

Rescue the weak and the poor; *** deliver
them from the power of the wicked.**

They do not know, neither do they
understand; they go about in darkness; *** all
the foundations of the earth are shaken.**

Now I say to you, 'You are gods, *** and all of
you children of the Most High;**

Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, ***
and fall like any prince."**

Arise, O God, and rule the earth, *** for you
shall take all nations for your own.**

"It was on a Tuesday"

The Iona Community

It was on a Tuesday
that he let them have it.

If you had been there
you would have thought that a union official
was being taken to task by a group of
mobsters. Or that the chairman of a
multinational corporation was being
interrogated by
left-wing activists posing as shareholders.

They wanted to know why
and they wanted to know how.

They were respectable men,
the influential men,
the establishment.

The questions they asked
ranged from silly schoolgirl speculations
about whether you would be a bigamist in
heaven
if you married twice on earth,
to what was the central rule of civilized
behavior.

They knew the answers already. . .
or so they thought,
otherwise they would never have asked the
questions.

And like most of us
they were looking for an argument
with no intentions of a change of heart.

So he flailed them with his tongue. . .
those who tried to look interested
but never wanted to be committed.

And that was on the Tuesday. . .
the day when he let them. . .
let us. . . have it.

Scripture reading

Luke 20:27-40

Homily

Quiet reflection

Glorious God, your thoughts are not our thoughts.

Neither are your ways our ways.

You look at the ugliest soul and see, still
unstirred, the wings of an angel.

**We scan the finest of our neighbors,
anxious to find the flaw.**

You view time in the context of eternity, and
so find a place for waiting, for yearning,
even for suffering, even for dying.

**We demand instant results; and look for
tomorrow before savoring today.**

You know that only one who suffers can
ultimately save that is why you walk the
way of the cross.

**We fear that vulnerability which defies our
power; and so we cry for crucifixion.**

Your thoughts are not our thoughts,
Neither are your ways our ways.

And yet we know that your way is the ladder
to heaven, while, left to our own devices,
our ways slope downward to hell.

But we are here, not to have our worst
confirmed, but to have our best liberated.
So we pray,

**Forgive in us what has gone wrong,
Repair in us what is wasted,
Reveal in us what is good.**

And nourish us with better food than we could
ever purchase:

Your word, Your love, Your inspiration.

Your daily bread for life's journey in the
company of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Words