



## June 12, 2020-Reflections for Ordinary Time

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear God, I acknowledge the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation for being the ongoing stewards of this traditional territory.

### *A reading from the Book of Psalms*

*"I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:13-14)*

The plea in this prayer must have come from a deep place of pain and suffering. The book of psalms is full of work which cantors or reader recite at every mass. It is scripture which shows us our relationship with God is a roller coaster ride of every human emotion one will experience in life. From the great joys of life in union in love and peace with God and the most devastating separation caused by the realities of life which include suffering and death. Yet what remains constant is the humility of David to recognize that in every aspect of his life he could not survive or live without God. If you didn't know, most scholars agree that King David, from the story of David and Goliath, is the writer of the book of Psalms.

Being a Chaplaincy leader at Ascension, I have had great conversations with students and staff about various things from Church teaching, scripture, and the existence of God. Perhaps, the ones that last the longest are the ones from those who inform me they are atheist. They have very valid reasons not to believe in God. For some their disbelief is rooted in the cruel realities of life from death, betrayal, suffering, and abandonment. Others don't believe because they have sought answers to deep questions about the universe and have been given either unsatisfactory answers or none. Whatever the reason, as we talk, a psalm runs through my head, a reminder that doubt is part of our faith journey. Perhaps, the person in front of me is at the point of doubt or disbelief. Maybe, I'm supposed to listen. I'm supposed to let them come to Lord when they are ready. Consider, how can one say, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" without having that moment of doubt in God, or "The Lord is my Shepherd there is nothing I shall want, without having experienced the mercy of God. Or "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad," without experiencing how the impossible becomes possible.

As we end another week, perhaps you have realized you are angry at God or doubt his existence. Maybe you have found that the pain and suffering are so great in the world that God doesn't exist. For you, pray the book of Psalms and find the words which helped David find peace with himself, others, and God. In David, may you experience the mercy of God that throughout everything, he is the constant even when you don't acknowledge that he is there with you. Keep close to your heart the words of Jesus who said, "Remember I am with you always till the end of days." Amen. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.