

You Know Us Through and Through

There is no question but that during times like these, times of great loss, times when it seems death looks through the windows of our lives and sneers, seemingly in control, seemingly able, at a whim, to take from us that which is most dear, most precious; it is during times like these that we turn to the Psalms.

The Psalms are the outpouring of every human emotion and while written in ancient times, are as compelling as if they were authored only this morning.

The Psalms ring out sometimes with fervent joy, other times with soul-wrenching remorse and yet again with grief that overflows the heart.

It is in deep grief that we today turn to the Psalms, seeking solace, comfort, hope.

In the face of untimely death, the Psalms beckon us back to remember again that our great God is always with us; never abandoning us; reminding us all that whether in life or in death, we are held close to the Living God.

Today, in our psalm, we prayed, "There is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether."

Reminding us that God is closer to us than our breath; nearer than our own heartbeat.

The psalmist continues: "You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me."

And while, especially in deep grief, it seems we are abandoned and utterly alone, the author of today's psalm urges you, urges me, to

open our eyes and see that when we are at our lowest point, it is God who carries us.

Her poem continues: "For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

"My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth."

She knows that we are known even before we know ourselves.

And I think that's what Jesus is getting at with his tongue in cheek encounter with Nathaniel in our Gospel reading today.

Smart aleck Nathaniel, making fun of Jesus' hometown, drinking his root beer under a fig tree, has his first encounter with Jesus.

The Word made flesh, with a grin on his face, tells Nathaniel, tells us, that we are known, and in that telling, invites us into a life that walks with God.

"Come and see," Jesus says to the first of the disciples.

"Come and see." Philip says today to Nathaniel.

"Come and see," said the still small voice to Fr. Saimone as he heard the invitation of God, and followed.

And so it is for us.

The God who has known us from our mother's womb does not forget us, even in the grave, and walks with us, at every step, from womb to grave.

"Where can I go from your spirit?"

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven you are there,
If I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take to the wings of the morning
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me
Your right hand hold me fast.”

This is our faith.

This is our hope.

Thanks be to God!

+amen