

Notes on Lectionary Readings - 1st to 7th February 2021.

Understanding redemption and proclaiming God's Truth.

Read Malachi 3 verses 1 to 4.

Situation - The appearance of the Messengers.

Questions - What do you make of the Messengers purpose when it comes to refining?

Prayer - Lord thank you that you desire a process of refinement for your people. Lord help us commit to this process and so, not be afraid to stand in Your presence – especially when you come again. Amen.

Read Psalm 84 or Psalm 24 vs 7 to 10.

Theme - God's living presence is our greatest joy. His radiant presence helps us grow in Strength, Grace and Glory.

Questions - Do you find a yearning for the Lord? What obstacles and pilgrimage are you prepared to take up to daily enjoy God's living presence?

Prayer - Oh Lord we know that growing strong in Your presence is often preceded by a journey to barren places in our lives. May we see any adversity that we experience as an opportunity to experience your faithfulness. Amen.

Read Hebrews 2 verses 14 to 18.

Situation - Christ's death and resurrection sets us free from the fear of death because death has been defeated.

Questions - Do we have a sense of Jesus as the bridge between the living and the dead, slaves and Freeman, the past and the future?

Prayer - Lord, You who suffered pain and faced temptation help us to face the same as we encounter them in life's journey. Thank you that you understand our struggles because you've faced them as a human being. Thank you that we can trust you to help us survive suffering and overcome temptation. When we face trials, may we come to You for strength and patience - knowing You understand and are able to help. Amen.

Read Luke 2 verses 22 to 40.

Situation - Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple.

Questions - Although Simeon and Anna were old, they never lost the hope that they would see the Messiah. Both as prophet and prophetess, they were revered for being unusually close to God. Their role was not necessarily to predict the future. Their main role was to speak for God proclaiming His truth. In Jewish culture the prophecies of older persons carried extra weight. Does our society value youthfulness over wisdom? Do we often ignore the potential contributions of the elderly?

Prayer - Oh Lord help us to encourage older people to share their wisdom and experience. May we listen carefully when they speak. May we offer them our friendship and help them find ways to continue to serve You. Amen.