

Thought for the Day

Thought for the day is based on one of the day's lectionary readings.

For the Bible online, go to: <http://bible.oremus.org/>

Choose your version (we use NRSV in church)

Copy and paste the reference into the search box and the passage will be displayed.

Monday 23 March

Psalm 30.1-5, 8, 11-12

Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Ps 30.5

In my Bible this psalm is headed 'Thanksgiving for recovery from grave illness'. It's an editorial comment designed to throw light on the theme of the psalm, not part of the Hebrew text. However it's interesting to us at present. Certainly those of us who make it through the current crisis might pray this psalm in thanksgiving. But I feel sure that it is also meant for the time of darkness before the dawn comes. We are Easter people, children of the resurrection, and our faith means that the darkest of times cannot put out that light of hope. We can remind ourselves that 'this too will pass', and for the time being we must endure and trust that the crisis will end. More than that, whether we and our loved ones make it through - which I hope and pray will happen - or some of us don't, our 'souls are held in the hand of God', in the words of the Wisdom of Solomon.

Or as Paul put it in 2 Corinthians 4.17-18:

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Let us pray for the time when we can sing together:

'You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.' Ps 30.11

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*