

Holy Tuesday

Collect and Reading

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, Amen.

1 Corinthians 1.18-31

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Reflection

Not many wise, not many influential, not many noble... what a relief, for I don't feel wise or influential nor indeed noble, but we all have a place in God's family!

In St Levan there is a wonderful ancient pew end of the Jester. Carved into the beautiful wood next to pilgrim and the images of the passion is a medieval court jester. How unexpected! I think of 1 Corinthians 4.10 where Paul reminds us, we are fools for Christ. Why not today try to think about your fellow fools, those with whom you would have been sharing worship with and pray for them. For these are the very people who God has placed into your lives as family. It is sobering to think of how often families fall out, and yet God has called us to be one family! What does it mean for us to know ourselves as family today? "The foolishness of God is wiser than our wisdom"!

Prayers

We pray for the world, for our community, for our church, for our family and friends, and for ourselves in our own words, concluding with:

Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God,
your saving power among all peoples.

Renew your Church in holiness
and help us to serve you with joy.

Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.

Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Make us instruments of your peace
and let your glory be over all the earth. Amen.