

Aug. 17, 2019

Reflection on readings From Liturgy of the Hours

Mrs. Marilyn Pipkin, OP

Micah 7:7-20 and Sermon on Baptism by St. Pacian, bishop

Hope and trust are the core of Micah's discourse. No matter how dire circumstances look, Micah's trust in the Lord is not shaken. This hope in the Lord's love of His people sustains him. Israel's punishment needs to be endured because their sins deserve it. God will pardon them and justice will be served. Micah knows that eventually the evil ones will be called to account and put to shame.

In St. Pacian's sermon hope and trust are again expressed. Eternal life is ours if we persevere in faith, lead virtuous lives and avoid sin. He quotes, "If we place our hope in this world, we are the most miserable of men." Our hope is in the Lord who by His cross forgives our sins and destroys what was held against us because of our disobedience. Baptism gives us the gift of eternal life.

Today we see many things that make it look like evil is triumphing and calls us to give up our hope and trust in God. But God is still on the throne and ultimately will triumph. We need to hold fast to faith, not sight. We believe Jesus' reassurance of forgiveness and eternal life if we are obedient. Our challenge is to always trust the Lord and be obedient despite a culture that flouts the validity of God's commandments. His promises give us hope. Rom. 8:28 "We know that in everything God works for good with those who are called according to his purpose." We give God the acceptable sacrifice of praise in all circumstances despite what appearances tell us.