

Pastoral Prayers for Trinity Sunday / Graduation Sunday

June 7, 2020

Psalm 8; Matt 28

By Zac Koons

God of all time, your Son told his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, and now two thousand years later and tens of thousands of miles away we in Austin, Texas count ourselves members of your Church. As we now try to follow in their example, equip us with courage and creativity, that we may proclaim your Gospel faithfully especially now in this time of great distress. Shape our words according to your truth, change our lives according to your holiness, that two thousand years from now and tens of thousands of miles away people will still be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

O Lord Our Governor, all authority in heaven and earth is yours. Give wisdom and compassion to those in positions of temporary authority on earth, for mayors, council members, sheriffs, police chiefs, governors; for our courts, members of congress, and for our President. Convert their hearts and minds to the ways of heaven, that the justice and peace of your kingdom may be known here on earth, and your Name be exalted in all the world, Amen.

Lord Jesus of Nazareth, we do not know much about your teenage years. We assume you spent some time learning carpentry. We assume you spent some time reading the Scriptures. We wonder how much you knew then about what your life would become. Today we celebrate and hold before you those teenagers in our community who are graduating into adulthood. Inspire them with passions uniquely fitted to their personality; grant them thirst to drink deeply from the wells of knowledge and wisdom in your creation, that out of the mouths of these children-now-adults your majesty would be declared to all the world, in your most holy Name. Amen.

God of every generation, you made humanity but little lower than the angels, you adorn us with glory and honor; you give us mastery over the works of your hands, and put all things under our feet, but we have abused the trust you put in us. We have turned your gifts to selfish ends; we sustain economies of inequality; and we perpetuate systems of injustice, racism, and violence. We repent. Give us ears to hear to uncomfortable truths, minds to understand complex histories, and determination to build a future that is bigger than the past, in your Son's name. Amen.

God of every breath, you promise to hear the cry of the brokenhearted. After months of cries being hidden behind closed doors of homes and hospital rooms, cries of a different kind have now burst forth onto the streets. Make us wise as we look for ways to add our voices to theirs, give us humility to accept some cries our directed at us, make us bold to stand with brothers and sisters of your family throughout the world as we strive for justice and peace among all people and learn to respect the dignity of every human being, in your Name. Amen.

We commend to your mercy those who have died, including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. Receive them into our heavenly kingdom, that they may rest this day in peace. Amen.

We give you thanks for the examples of the saints that have gone before us. Give us eyes to see saints we may have missed before that we may be inspired by their example today. Amen.