

SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE The Early Christian Community (ACTS II, 42-47 IV, 29-31)

These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to their unity, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

And together they prayed 'Lord, help your servants to proclaim your miracles and marvels through the name of your holy servant Jesus.'

Excerpt from "Magnificat of Justice" from *Myriam of Jerusalem, Teacher of Disciples*, Ann Johnson, Ave Maria Press, pp. 114-115

REFLECTION

Bring Bring your gifts to the circle. Bring your heart, your song, your prayer. Bring your willingness to be open, to listen, to hold another human in your arms. Bring what you alone can bring. Bring your strong hands, your singular understanding of old truck engines, your freshly oiled chainsaw. Bring your laptop, your love of quantum physics, your ancient Chinese wisdom. Bring your drum, your favorite poem, the comic strip that cracked you up....

Receive For once, stop giving, giving, giving to everyone but yourself. Be open to what comes your way – and be none to hasty to turn it aside. Accept a compliment, a gift, a favor, with grace. Purge "oh you shouldn't have!" from your vocabulary. Receive the love that others offer, in whatever form it takes. Voice what you need – be it a hug, a moment of talk, food for your table, a loan of money – and know that it will be provided.

Share No matter how little you have or how much, share it. Give your last drops of lavender bath oil to a friend who needs the relaxation more than you do. Share your gift of song, your smile, your recipe for falafel... share your thirst for understanding with an [elder]. Never stop sharing. Share a sunny afternoon, a rainy morning, a quiet sunrise. Share your home with someone who doesn't have one right now. Share your clothes. Break your cookie into pieces and share them with everyone at the table. You *are* as you *share*....

Table sharing: From our time together, the following _____ is an action I will take or a learning I will explore further....

CLOSING PRAYER: Read together

God who draws us into unity, we thank you for this morning, this place, and the people in our lives who show us Your way. Help us to be about celebrating life and the gift that each person is. Each person we live with touches our life or makes us more aware of who we are. Give us open minds and generous hearts to continue to build community among ourselves and in our world. Form us as peacemakers, bridge builders – people of community. Amen.