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Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

YOUR KINDNESS, O LORD, ENDURES FOREVER

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Reading

The crowd in Philippi joined in the attack on Paul and Silas, and the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After inflicting many blows on them, they threw them into prison and instructed the jailer to guard them securely. When he received these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and secured their feet to a stake. About midnight, while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God as the prisoners listened, there was suddenly such a severe earthquake that the foundations of the jail shook; all the doors flew open, and the chains of all were pulled loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted out in a loud voice, "Do no harm to yourself; we are all here." He asked for a light and rushed in and, trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord

Jesus and you and your household will be saved." So they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house. He took them in at that hour of the night and bathed their wounds; then he and all his family were baptized at once. He brought them up into his house and provided a meal and with his household rejoiced at having come to faith in God.

ACTS 16:22-34

Reflection

This passage from Acts of the Apostles tells of an experience of Christian disciples in northern Greece. While in the city of Philippi, they were accused of advocating customs not lawful for Romans to practice, then beaten and finally imprisoned in the innermost part of the prison with their feet secured to a stake. Yet, their imprisonment didn't last long, for late at night an earthquake shook the prison foundations opening doors and loosening chains. Notably, the deliverance of the disciples was also a deliverance for their jailor and his family. The former prisoners were treated with kindness and hospitality which were expressions of the transformation of the jailor's heart and mind, his own opened doors and loosened chains. Such is the way God works through and in us so that all may live in freedom together. This is tangible evidence of God's enduring kindness even for both the "prisoner" and "jailor" within us.



An open door
Photo by Ekaterina Astakhova/ Pexels

For Prayer

*I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;*

*in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple,
and give thanks to your name.*

*Because of your kindness and your truth,
you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.*

*Your right hand saves me.
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.*

PSALM 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8

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