



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

MIGHTY IS OUR GOD!

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

I myself am convinced about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to admonish one another. But I have written to you rather boldly in some respects to remind you, because of the grace given to me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in performing the priestly service of the Gospel of God.... For I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to lead the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God.... Thus I aspire to proclaim the Gospel not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on another's foundation, but as it is written: Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand.

ROMANS 15:14-21

Reflection

During this week I am using the word AUTUMN as an acronym to reflect on each day's readings. For today, the word is MIGHTY. For context, the words from Monday's, Tuesday's, Wednesday's, and Thursday's readings are included, as well as the word for Saturday.

AUTUMN

A: Awe

U: Understanding

T: Trust

U: Underneath

M: Mighty

N: Nature

I chose the word "mighty" because as I read this passage from Romans, what I was experiencing within me was the mighty power of God at work in St. Paul's life, the lives of the Gentiles, and all those who "have never been told of him [but] shall see, and those who have never heard of him [but] shall understand."

I must admit one humorous thing: when I hear the word "mighty," I'm reminded of my favorite cartoon from childhood – Mighty Mouse! In some ways, this small yet Mighty Mouse was given the charge of doing good and stopping evil in the world. As a young child, with rapt attention to what played across the screen, I wanted to be Mighty Mouse – to do good and stop harm from happening to others!

While that childish image of the mouse with the cape easily comes to mind, in my adulthood, it has morphed into image of the dove – the Holy Spirit. The mighty power of the Holy Spirit transforms lives – yours and mine. I've cultivated, within myself, a sense of calling upon the Spirit to help me navigate this world I find myself in, because it is my deepest wish to leave an imprint on this earth that speaks to my desire to be love.

Mighty

O mighty power of the Holy Spirit, I call upon you to guide my life this day. Nudge me toward the paths of light and hope where my presence is one that speaks of the love I experience in relationship with the Beloved.

O mighty power of the Holy Spirit, I call upon you to bring healing where despair abounds, joy where discouragement reigns, and peace where pain and anguish dwell.

O mighty power of the Holy Spirit, I call upon you to lift the veil of ignorance, mine and others, where harm is inflicted without cause or consciousness. May we tread thoughtfully and carefully, in our thoughts, words, and actions.



For Pondering

- How do you experience the "mighty" work of the Holy Spirit in your life?
 - How might you cultivate a stronger sense of mission where you, like St. Paul, seek out those who long for a closer relationship with God?
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For Prayer

*O mighty Spirit of God,
unfurl your grace throughout this day,
using us as instruments of your peace and love.
May we live as men and women
grounded in our deep desire
to be reconciling and unifying love this day.
Amen.*

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