

Reflection Friday 2nd Wek Lent 2022

The nit-picking and blame-seeking world in which we live today would probably have blamed Israel for Joseph's misfortune because Israel favoured Joseph. Biblical writers ask different questions. What lessons can we learn from this story?

There are similarities with the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, the sacrificial lamb, the rejection of God and the slavery of sin. The story later tells of redemption and glory, of the importance, courage and perseverance of faith and reconciliation. We can spend life licking our wounds over the injustices, even the cruelty, abuse and rejection of others we have endured through no fault of our own, or we can face the future and help create a society that opposes such abuses. Many have done this successfully.

Jesus took such an approach. Like Joseph, he was rejected also because of envy, but he persevered. In his case, it cost him his life. Being ready to do that resulted in Jesus becoming the cornerstone, the key-stone on which our salvation and the salvation of all people and creation is built. A solid foundation built on a love that can never be defeated.

I arise today through the strength of heaven;
light of the sun, splendour of fire,
speed of lightning, swiftness of the wind,
depth of the sea, stability of the earth,
firmness of the rock.

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today through the mighty strength of the Lord of creation.