

Parting Words of Blessing Numbers 6; 2 Corinthians 13

Finally brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
2 Corinthians 13:11

Vows, promises, covenants are very important matters for the Lord. The Nazirite Vow, which we read about in Numbers 6, was a voluntary vow made to the Lord, not as a way to merit forgiveness or holiness but as an exercise of faith. Still, the vow was regarded by both the Nazirite and the Lord as a serious promise. If broken for some reason, even by accident, there was a long list of reparations to be made. “Nazirite” means “one separated or consecrated”. We make vows today on rare occasions such as baptisms and marriages but sometimes these vows are in danger of being broken.

God follows this explanation of the Nazirite vow, through the words of Moses in Numbers and the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians, with a vow of His own. The Aaronic Blessing in Numbers and the Apostolic Blessing in 2 Corinthians are the Lord’s promise and blessing for us always. God’s vow, as the Nazirite’s vow, separates us and consecrates us. The Lord will always bless you and protect you, show you His face and be good to you, even smile on you and give you the peace only He can give. The Father loves you, the Son gives you His grace, and the Holy Spirit will never forsake you. These promises cannot be broken and provide assurance and comfort for us forever.

*I, the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I, the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you and give you peace. LSB, 922:4*

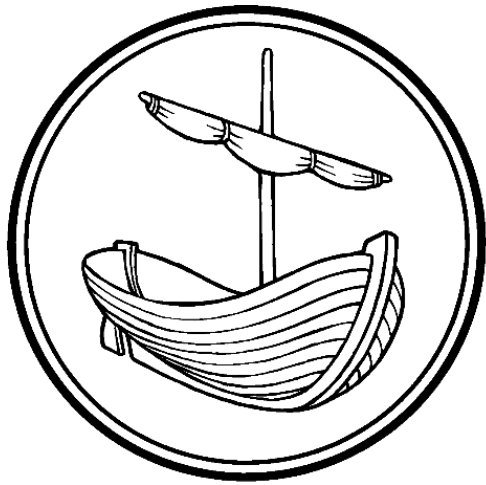
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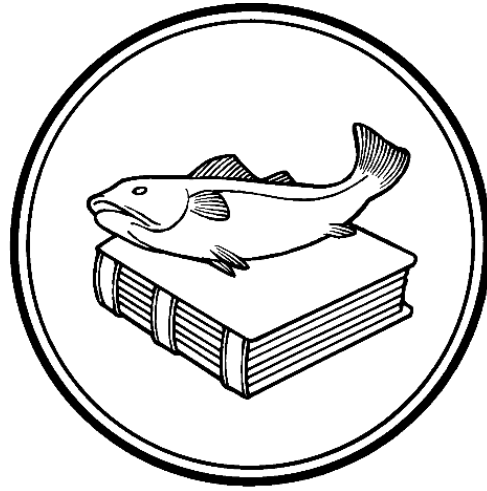
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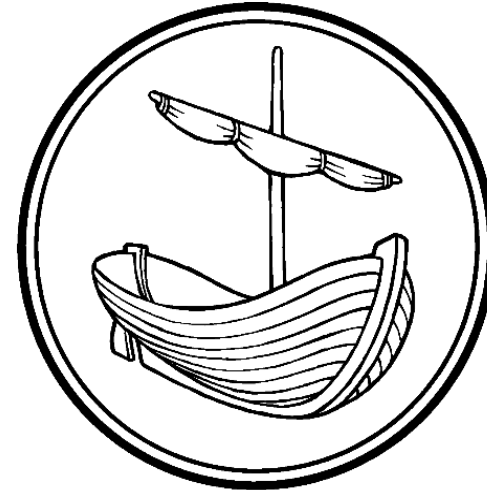
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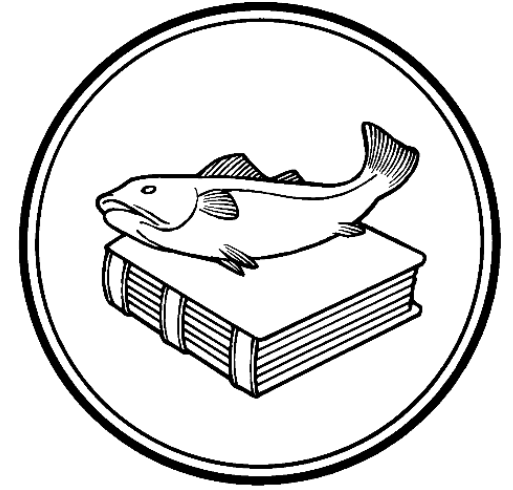
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St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

In the lists of the twelve apostles, the tenth and eleventh places are occupied by Simon the Zealot (or Cananean) and by Jude (or “Judas”, not Iscariot but “of James”), who was apparently known also as Thaddaeus. According to early Christian tradition, Simon and Jude journeyed together as missionaries to Persia, where they were martyred. It is likely for this reason, at least in part, that these two apostles are commemorated on the same day. Simon is not mentioned in the New Testament apart from the lists of the twelve apostles. Jude appears in John’s Gospel (14:22) on the night of our Lord’s betrayal and the beginning of His Passion, asking Jesus how it is that He will manifest Himself to the disciples but not to the world. The answer that Jesus gives to this question is a pertinent emphasis for this festival day: “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him” (John 14:23). Both Jude and Simon exemplified, in life and death, their love for Jesus and their faith in His Word. Because he was a “fisher of men” Simon is symbolized by a fish on a Gospel book. Jude is represented by a ship because of his missionary journeys. They are commemorated together by the Church on October 28.

-”Treasury of Daily Prayer”

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