

August 25 to 31

Reutlingen School of Theology

**The nation whose God is the LORD,
the people who God has chosen as his possession, is truly happy.**
(Psalm 33:12 CEB)

Praying to the “Guilty One”

On the 10th Sunday after Trinity Sunday, each year German Protestant Churches observe Israel Sunday with this beatitude and its invitation to celebrate God’s loyalty to his people Israel. The psalm encourages us to rejoice, praise and sing in light of God’s justice.

But when we read in today’s newspapers that Jews – rabbis with their families – are being insulted, spit at and beaten, in Berlin, Munich and recently even in Paris, then the promise of “true happiness” doesn’t seem to be such an easy one after all. The inevitable question is posed: where was God when His nation faced annihilation?

Elie Wiesel, who as a young man just managed to escape from Auschwitz concentration camp, says: “In the camp, three rabbis decided to indict God, abiding by the appropriate, correct form for a proper rabbinical

tribunal. What they did was completely in accord with Jewish law and Jewish tradition. The tribunal hearings dragged on and on. Eventually the tribunal president announced the verdict: Guilty. This was followed by silence – interminable silence. But then the rabbi said: And now, my friends, let us go and pray. And we prayed to God, who had just been declared guilty by His children.”

Even when every attempt at explanation fails, people still hold fast to prayer. In prayer, God remains the One who looks after all people living on earth, the only source of help and protection, of whom it can be said: “The nation whose God is the LORD is truly happy.”

Christof Voigt

Contact: christof.voigt@emk.de
Translation: Jacqueline Rohmann

WE PRAY

- for understanding among the peoples of all the earth and that people of faith will let themselves be guided by God’s Holy Spirit.
- for divine peace, shalom, on earth, and that theological training opens heads, hearts and minds for this peace.
- for diverse, refreshing cohabitation of people from all origins.

WE GIVE THANKS

- for all students at our church’s own school of theology with all their different backgrounds.
- for the good studying conditions provided by the church and by the school.
- for people in the churches who are working for peace and understanding.

Reutlingen School of Theology (RST)

Reutlingen School of Theology continues a 150 year old tradition of training church leaders. In 2005 it became a federally accredited university, and awards internationally recognized BA and MA degrees. The academic community currently has seventy students, seven professors, five teachers and seven faculty and administration colleagues.

Contact:

Reutlingen School of Theology
Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 31
72762 Reutlingen

Phone: 07121 9259-0
www.th-reutlingen.de