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[intro music]

Fr. Shay: Welcome to the Reading Queerly queer theology podcast, where each week, your hosts Brian Murphy and Shay Kearns will offer a reflection on the week's lectionary readings.

Brian: Hello and welcome to the queer theology lectionary podcast! Today we are looking at the passage for October 11th. We're going to take a look at Psalm 90:12-17. I'm going to read it for you right now.

Teach us to number our days so we can have a wise heart. Come back to us, Lord! Please, quick! Have some compassion for your servants!

Fill us full every morning with your faithful love so we can rejoice and celebrate our whole life long. Make us happy for the same amount of time that you afflicted us— for the same number of years that we saw only trouble.

Let your acts be seen by your servants; let your glory be seen by their children. Let the kindness of the Lord our God be over us. Make the work of our hands last. Make the work of our hands last! [CEB]

I want to say Amen. Amen! [both laugh] Shay, what comes up for you in this passage?

FS: One of my favorite places on the planet these days is St. John's Abbey, which is a monastery about, oh, an hour and a half from me. It's also a university. It's a monastery of Benedictine brothers. The Benedictines are famous for their hospitality, and they have this amazing guest house that's nicer than hotels that I've stayed in. They have this policy that, you know, they have a suggested rate for the night, but if you can't afford that, you can come and stay and you can give whatever you can afford and you can eat and whatever. And you can also pray with the brothers three times a day and have daily Eucharist. For the last several years, I've tried to get up there at least once a year. It's just a gorgeous space and an amazing way to center yourself, and I love being able to pray with the

brothers. There's something about the chanting of the Psalms. Anyway, in this small, Benedictine prayer book I have, this is one of the morning prayers. It's prayed at the first office of the day. I really love the way that it honors the work that we do and also helps us to be present to it. In my translation, the last verse says "make the work of our hands last."

B: Oh, it says that in mine. I misread it. [both laugh] Sorry.

FS: There's something really beautiful about this morning prayer – being conscious about the work that you're about to do and also asking that it last. I think that so often, for those of us who go to office jobs, and we send a bunch of emails and reply to stuff and put out fires, there can be this fleetingness to our work and it can feel meaningless sometimes, even ministry work. There are days when it feels like nothing I'm doing actually matters [laughs] or means anything. And so I love this morning prayer of asking that the work that we do has an impact, and an impact that will last. And I just love the idea of praying the Psalms.

B: Yeah, what I think I love about this is it's just as much about asking something from God as it is about asking something for ourselves or from ourselves, right? This passage could easily be a meditation, it could be the universe instead of God, right? What an idea to say, help me to be full of love every morning and help me to do something that matters in the world. It isn't like, God, give me a pony. [Shay laughs] It's like, help me be appreciative of what I have and find joy in my life and to do things that are meaningful. I like that idea that we can celebrate God and also celebrate ourselves, and sort of center ourselves on positivity.

[outro music]

B: This has been Reading Queerly, the queer lectionary podcast. I'm Brian—

FS: And I'm Shay. And you can find out more at QueerTheology.com.

B: If you'd like to connect with us, send us an email to connect@queertheology.com.

FS: Thanks for listening.

PODCAST END

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Transcript by Taylor Walker