

Daily Walk for the week of May 13, 2019

“The Great Mystery of Faith: Relationship”

Written by CoG Member

Monday, May 13th Familiar Voice

“So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.’” John 10:24-28 How many voices do you hear in a day? How many of those voices do you recognize? When you hear a voice you recognize, what reaction do you have? Jesus is telling the Jews that are asking for a firm answer to their question that they already have the information to know if he is the Messiah. Being in relationship with Jesus as believers, we know his voice; the Good Shepherd’s voice with a promise that we are his, we are protected and he is always with us. In belonging to him, our relationship is not a give and take relationship – If you do this, then I’ll do that. We belong to Jesus no matter where we come from, what works we have done, the sins we have committed. Jesus knows us and we know his voice, he is waiting for us to hear his voice and respond. Prayer: “Good Shepherd, be with me today as I go out into the world full of voices to hear your kind, gentle, loving voice and be willing to respond.”

Tuesday, May 14th Follow Me

“My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.” John 10:27-30. As followers of Jesus, we will have moments of doubt, hear other voices, focus on things of this world but when we hear the voice of Jesus we are called to respond. Respond like the ELCA’s motto “God’s Work. Our Hands.” We are to trust that God is with us and believe that we are doing His work in the world. God sent his son, Jesus to teach us. Dive into his Living Word this week and listen to what he is calling you to do. Prayer: “Good Shepherd, help me with time and space in my daily life to share your love and shine your light to those who need you. Thank you for the promise of protection and eternal life. Amen”

“The Great Mystery of Faith: Inclusion”

Written by Kerri Lawton

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Psalm 148:11-13 “Kings of the earth and all peoples, princess and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted, his glory is above earth and heaven.” We begin this series of “inclusion” with this beautiful Psalm that simply includes all mankind, young and old, to glorify his name. This coming from a time when so many were being excluded, due to their sex, race and religion. So many were persecuted, even to death, for sharing the words of their teacher and Savior. This psalm begins with “praise the Lord” and ends the same way, repeating the word “praise” 13 times. How important to stress this for all, and in its entirety, to appreciate God’s creations. 5 “Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.” This includes all of mankind, with no distinction, for we were all created equal. 14 “He raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful.” What a wonder to be included in his grace and goodness, as he praises us for the good we do, in His name. Prayer: Heavenly Lord, may we continue to sing your praise for all of your creations. May we appreciate the wonder of being included, as so many before us, who sacrificed so much. May we give praise for his gifts of love and commitment to include us each and every day. Amen

Thursday, May 16, 2019 Revelation 21:2-3 “And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying “see the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God, they will be his peoples and God himself will be with them. “ Continuing on the series of “inclusion,” in this verse, we see the commitment God has made to his people. We visualize the coming of the Lord as a glorious scene “coming down out of heaven,” the new Jerusalem. I love the comparison to a new “bride adorned for her husband.” For a wedding is one of the greatest acts of commitment a couple can make towards one another. The love shared, for all to see, between a committed couple is full of hope and tranquility. God wants to embrace us all, as he dwells among us; as we want to embrace the happy couple, sharing their excitement towards a new beginning. Revelation 21:4 continues: “He will wipe every tear from their

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eyes. Death will be no more, morning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. “How glorious he sets the scene: We will no longer be burdened from mourning and pain but will forever feel his presence and love. He is committed to us and we should be in return. Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to keep in mind the constant commitment you have for our well-being. May we share the love and excitement of a new beginning with all people. In your holy name, Amen.

Friday, May 17, 2019

Revelation 21:5-6 “And the one who was seated on the throne said ‘see, I am making all things new,’ also he said ‘write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘it is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’” As John is instructed to “write this “we are reminded of the truth in God’s words and promises; that he stresses to be written throughout scripture. “It is done!”, speaks of God’s true being and his power over the world. It should give us comfort in knowing he is in control. God assures us with words that are clearly understandable and with meaning that he has sovereign power over the history and future of the world we know. His promise to give water to the thirsty, speaks of eternal life received by God’s grace through faith. Our sovereign Lord graciously will supply all we need for an everlasting relationship with him. Prayer: Heavenly Father, know that we hear your words of truth and are strengthened by them. Give us your grace and mercy that we may one day receive your gift of the water of life. Forever yours, Amen.

Saturday, May 18, 2019

Acts 11:17 “If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could hinder God?” Peter was explaining to the apostles in believers, in Judea, about the Gentiles excepting the word of God. For the apostles were criticizing him for being with them. He told them of a vision he had from God. He had seen animals, beast of prey, reptiles and birds and was instructed to kill and eat, by God, but he replied that he had always seen these things as unclean and profane and he had never eat of these. The voice answered from heaven, “what God has made clean, you must not call profane.” He explained, at that moment, three men arrived and he was told by the spirit: “to go with them, not making any distinction between them and us.” These men, being Gentiles, took Peter to a man’s home, whom also had had a vision: hav-

ing seen an angel in his house, instructing him to have Peter brought to his home. As Peter spoke among them, “the holy spirit fell upon them” just as it had for the apostles in the beginning. Peter was not to make any distinction between them, no matter how “unclean “he had been taught. Just as Jesus walked among sinners, the apostles were to change their view of those they felt unworthy. Peter had experienced, for himself, that God makes no distinction. These are lessons we must learn from, even to this day. As the apostles then said “that God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.” The acceptance of those seem so different and even “unclean, “shows true grace given by God and we also must never hinder God’s intentions. Prayer: Heavenly Father, continue to teach us through your words. Help us not make distinctions between people we may encounter, but show grace and acceptance as a true believer. May we grow in grace and transform lives. Amen

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Psalms 148:13 “Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.” This hallelujah psalm is a song of praise for all of creation. It begins as an instructional verse, the praise should start from the heavens above. Praise from all his angels and his Heavenly host. Keep in mind these were created by “his command.”, 6” he established them forever and ever. “He includes the sun, moon and stars that we, as people of this earth, lives our lives; by the light of day and the elimination of the moon at night, so familiar to us. Once again, his creations. The psalm then moves to earth and His creations there. From the depths of the ocean, all nature elements, to nature abound from the mountains to the hills, including all animals on earth and in the sky. Then lastly he includes all the peoples of the earth, young and old. Our theme of inclusion is so clearly prominent in this song. The psalmist includes all we, as people, know every day of our lives. We all are influenced daily by our faith in heaven and angels; the sun, moon and stars, nature elements, the lands we know, the animals and fruit trees that we survive off of and finally the inclusion of all people. That we are here for each other as well, praising our Lord and giving thanks for all of his creations, in heaven and on earth. Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for your inspiring words, it reminds us daily of what we are given by your grace. All of creation, here by your command, is wonder to our eyes. Give thanks and praise. Amen