

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of June 10, 2019

Day of Pentecost

Written by Mary Anderson

Monday, June 10th The Spirit of Truth

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." John 14:15-17. Jesus was with his disciples. First Thomas, then Phillip asked Jesus to show them God, the Father. They just didn't understand that seeing Jesus and his healing and the words he spoke was seeing the Father. He called them to believe in him, and if they did, they would also do his good works. He also asked God to give them an advocate, the Holy Spirit. John's gospel provides a unique understanding of the meaning and function of the Spirit as one who walks alongside and guides his followers in the way of the truth, then and now. How blessed we are to have a God who loves us so much he sent the Holy Spirit to always be with us. As Jesus said, "if you love me, you will obey my commandments." What a small thing he is asking in return for his love, guidance, and eternal life. **Prayer:** God of all time, from the beginning you have loved us, and your love endures forever. Guide us in our living and enliven us with your Spirit, that we might tell every generation of your grace and mercy. Amen

Tuesday, June 11th The Spirit of Peace

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." John 14:25-27.

What a comforting thought that Jesus gave to the disciples, and gives to us, his peace. He asks us not to let our hearts be troubled and filled with fear, the same words he starts with in Chapter 14. God has given us the Holy Spirit who teaches us all that Jesus was sent to teach and more in our own lives. As we read and study our Bibles, God's Word, the Spirit will show us new meanings of something we may have read before and not understood. God's love and peace will never fail us, even when friends or family might let us down. To know God will be with us through our ups and downs, sorrows and joys, no matter what is so uplifting. Because Jesus died for our sins, we are free and called to share his love and peace with all those we encounter in our lives. **Prayer:** Dear God, we thank you for your peace and comfort at all times. We thank you for always being there for us and for sending your Holy Spirit to teach and guide us to be always putting you and others first in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The Holy Trinity

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

Wednesday June 12th Do not Be Afraid

"The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.'" Luke 1: 30-32. When God's messenger is announcing to Mary the conception of Jesus the message was "do not be afraid". God wants Mary and the world to know that Jesus, God's Son, is coming into the world to usher in a kingdom that will have no end. Jesus will reign with God's love, grace, and mercy for all people even ones who think they are left out. **Prayer:** "Help me to begin this day, Great Redeemer, without fear and grow in my heart a trust in Your grace. Amen."

Thursday June 13th Crowned by God

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.” Psalm 8: 3-5. This psalm invites us to take in all of God’s creation around us, remembering that the hand of the creator was involved in its making. From the stars in the highest heaven to the smallest of bugs it is all amazing when we pause to consider how it was made. This psalm also invites us to see one another differently as well. We are reminded that all people were “crowned by God” to live in creation and caring stewards. What would today look like if you treated everyone you met as royalty? Prayer: “Creator God, help me to see the wonder of your works in the people and place I go today. Amen.”

Friday June 14th A Worthy Life

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3. Paul is calling the church in Ephesus to live together in the love that was freely given to them from God in Christ. They are to “bear” each other with the same grace that comes to each of them from God. Paul understands that being in community will have its challenges, but he also understands the power of God at work in love, grace, and forgiveness when it is expressed in the community that they share. Paul’s call in this letter is to live in a new life that is freely given to us from a loving God. Prayer: “Guide me, O Holy Spirit, into life this day through your love, grace, and forgiveness. Amen.”

Saturday June 15th Get It

“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,

and whatever else you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a fair garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.” Proverbs 4:7-9. In Hebrew tradition wisdom is given feminine terms and descriptions but is not seen as a feminine god like the feminine gods of Israel’s neighbors. Rather wisdom and knowledge are lifted high in this text to be treasured and cared for by God’s people. Learning about, nurturing, and growing in wisdom is part of the faithful spiritual life. So Proverbs encourages each of us to study, learn, and grow in knowledge of God, the world, and our neighbors. The sayings of proverbs are intended to nurture people with wisdom that holds true from creation until the end of time. In this way wisdom draws us deeper into faith, life, and meaning as we grow. Prayer: “Grow in me, Lady Wisdom, this day as I open my heart and mind to your truth. Amen.”

Sunday June 16th Holy Trinity Sunday

Jesus is teaching his friends: “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” John 16: 12-15. Jesus is explaining part of the mystery of the Holy Trinity to his followers and he also recognized that not everything can be explained to them at that time. Simply put, with the Holy Trinity, there will be some mystery for his followers. God creates, redeems, and sanctifies the world in ways that are still unfolding both seen and unseen. Reflecting on the Holy Trinity enables us to see God’s mercy in all that was, is, and is to come for us. We are called to trust and look with wonder. Prayer: “Merciful God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, bless us with your grace and peace this day. Amen.”