

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF JUNE 13, 2022

The Holy Trinity

Written by Vicar Jared Fischer

Monday, June 13th

“And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Romans 5:3-5). In your sin you may find many times in your life where shame has taken over you emotionally. In those times it is important to remember that shame is acknowledgement of sin but it is not the end of the story. Jesus Christ died for those sins. He is able to remove the sin that we all have done in the end when it comes time for the perfect judgment of the father. Respect shame for what it is, but do not let it overcome you and lead you to more sin. Reflect on the mistakes you make but then put them behind you and try to live your life better every day going forward. You will sin again, you will repent, and life will go on. Christ loves you and knows you better than you know yourself and for that he sees no reason to be shameful in his eyes. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise for the tribulations and trials of our lives. We pray that these experiences give us more insight and better prepare us for the life to come. Amen.”

Tuesday, June 14th

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans 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. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet (Psalm 8:3-6). As we have reflected on the Holy Trinity this week, three persons in one God, equal in all things, it becomes even more apparent how undeserving we are of the salvation that they have granted us. We are not equals with them. We are nothing compared to their majesty. Yet we sinful, arrogant, undisciplined creatures are given the respect, salvation, and glory of Gods through their love for us. We are the chosen creatures of God's blessing. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, we give thanks and praise that out of all of your creatures you have chosen us. We pray that we do everything in our power to be respectful reflections of that love in our lives to each other. Amen.”

Partners in Ministry: Are Set Free

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

Wednesday June 15th

Freedom in the Common Good

“And among them all, no one was found to compare with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they were stationed in the king’s court. In every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. And Daniel continued there until the first year of king Cyrus.” Daniel 1: 19b-21. The king Nebuchadnezzar was wise enough to realize that he did not have all the answers to the questions that would come to him in his rule over the Babylonian Empire. So, he gathered wise people from all his conquered lands. Dan-

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iel was one of them and he served with his wisdom through out the rest of the king's reign for the common good of his people and the people of Babylon. Wisdom always cares for everyone not just the people in your tribe. Daniel and the king put their differences to the side so that they could focus on the questions of the day and work for the benefit of all. Daniels faith helped him to understand this and to use his position to lay the groundwork for his people's freedom that would also benefit the people of Babylon. We could use leaders like this in our world today. We all need to be more concerned with the common good than who wins or loses. We are called to help our neighbors, give to those in need, and empower the oppressed. This all grows out of God's wisdom that points us toward the common good. Prayer: "God of wisdom, your steadfast love give strength to the oppressed. Open our hearts and minds to discern your wisdom in the world today. Amen."

Thursday June 16th

Freedom in the way of Peace

"But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, and my life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you;" Psalm 22: 19-22. The psalmist knows that when the world is caught up in the destruction of war, violence, or hatred only God can bring lasting peace. This happens thru the very will of God being at work in the hearts of leaders and

citizens in the kingdoms of this world. When this happens God's kingdom unfolds as a grace filled way toward peace. In the peace of God, we are given freedom to love our neighbors, forgive ourselves and others, and work in the ministry we are called to for the sake of the world. We will find freedom in the way of peace through the Spirit of God. Prayer: "Protect us from all harm, O God, and direct us through your Spirit into the ways of peace this day. Amen."

Friday June 17th

Ministry begins in Promise

"My point is this: the law which came four hundred thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise. Galatians 3: 17-18. Paul sees that the promise God gives to Abraham will never be broken. Rather as history unfolds the promise is fulfilled through the continued work of God in gifts like the law (example shown above). Paul is also saying that the promise we receive from Christ Jesus ties us to this promise to Abraham. This is what his letter to the Galatians is about: how our ministry begins in promise. It begins with the water and word of our baptisms, the living Word we encounter in the scriptures, and in the Communion of God's table on Sunday mornings. All things begin in promise with God and we can trust that God will be at work to fulfill that promise. When we begin our ministries each day this way we work toward hope. Prayer: "Gracious and merciful God, begin this

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day with your promise that I may do the loving work of your kingdom in this world. Amen.”

Saturday June 18th

Ministry breaks down barriers

“See, the Lord’s hand is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. Rather, your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” Isaiah 59:1-2. There are a lot of times in our lives when we feel like God is not listening or concerned with our needs in this world. Isaiah is teaching us that in those moments we need freedom from our own sin that is placing a barrier between God and our spirits. He is inviting his readers into the power of repentance and confession. These spiritual gifts give us clarity on the grace of God already at work in our lives. They give insight into the nearness of God in our lives and bring healing even when we fail (and we all fail). When we confess and repent in our ministry each day we break down those barriers. Prayer: “Each day, O God remind me of your grace at work even when I fail. Help me confess and repent open my eyes to how close you are to me. Amen.”

Sunday June 19th

Partners in Ministry: Are set Free

In Luke 8: 26-39 Jesus heals the Gerasene Demoniac setting him free from their power. The man is also free from the rejection and social isolation of his community. When the man begs Jesus to let him be with him Jesus says: “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” Luke 8: 39. Jesus gave him more than freedom from evil spirits. Restoration of his spirit has also restored his

place in community. The community has trouble with this change and respond to Jesus and the healed man with fear. When Jesus encounters each of us on Sunday with the Living Word and the Holy Supper we are set free from our own possession by the spirit of the world. Paul expands this idea in his letter to the Galatians where he gives them an identity with God in Christ over their worldly labels. As partners in ministry in the body of Christ we are set free to live as God gifted and intended us to free from what our world expects us to be. Prayer: “Guide us into freedom as we serve you in ministry this day, O Christ, that we may be your partners in ministry. Amen.”