

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF MAY 2, 2022

The Promise Given: In Communion

Written By Vicar Jared

Monday May 2nd

“Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.” (John 21:4-14). When the Apostles lost Christ to death they began to mourn in the same way that many of us mourn the deaths of loved ones and friends. Ever after the resurrection, the

idea of Jesus being with them, physically or not, was one that they wrestled with until the end of their lives. We also wrestle with the same thing. How many of us can constantly feel the presence of Jesus when we are gathered? It is a difficult thing for sure. But when we are gathered together in communion, Christ Jesus is present with us. Like the apostle, do not worry about trying to name Jesus and identify Him when you are gathered but simply appreciate the time that you have together and the positive effects that He has on our lives and our community. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, thank you for the constant presence when we are gathered. Allow us the contentment to be with you in our lives and when we are gathered. Amen.”

Tuesday May 3rd

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do

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not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.” (John 21:15-19). When we think of Christ, we often think about forgiveness and redemption; this is the core concept of what it is to be a follower of Christ. In the lesson from John we see another example of this forgiveness. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. He does this so that Peter is able to repent for his transgressions at Jesus’ death when he denied Him three times. In this way we see Christ giving a person a chance to make things right. We are often given similar chances in our lives to make things right. While it doesn’t erase the sin of what we do wrong, it allows us to be “little Christs” like Luther would call it, so that we can make the world a better place. Prayer. “Good and gracious God, allow us the wisdom and acceptance to make amends to our fellows. Give us the opportunity to make right what we have made wrong in the past. We give thanks and praise for your forgiveness and we will strive to pay that forgiveness forward to others. Amen.”

The Promise Given: To All People

Written by Kerri Lawton

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Acts 9:36-40: “Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabatha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request,

“Please come to us without delay.” So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. Return to the body and said, “Tabatha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.” Our theme this week is “The Promise Given: To All People.” Tabatha had spent her life devoted to doing good works. God’s promise is for all people, the devoted disciples and followers, bringing joy and hope. He restored life through Peter, to a beloved humanitarian. We feel such joy when faith touches our lives in such wondrous ways. Lives are restored daily as people look to God on High for strength and direction. Remember the power of his promises and his ability to do many great things. Prayer: Beloved Lord, may the power of your words give us hope for the restoration of our world. Good works and deeds, through Christ, empowers us. Be with us, restoring life and giving hope. Amen

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Psalm 23:1-4: “The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still Waters, he restores my soul. He leads me in right path for his name sake.” How appropriate to read this favorite psalm, while I sit at a peaceful campsite, alongside a lake. The weather is perfect and I am alone in blissful solitude (which doesn’t happen often, as I live with my daughter’s family!) I was invited on my (3)

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brother's fishing/camping trip and, as much as I dislike fishing (that's another story!) I took advantage of it, for moments like this. Let them fish-on! God provides, sometimes in glorious ways and other times in unexpected ways. His promise of love and fulfillment is felt, seen and heard through the nature I observe, warming my soul with hope and happiness. I can almost hear my parents singing joyously from Heaven above, knowing how close their children are; taking time out of our busy lives to spend time together. Take time to appreciate God's creations and the peace He promises. Prayer: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Lord, may you continue to restore my soul for the Lord's name sake. Amen

Friday, May 6, 2022

Revelations 5:11-12: "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders, they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Praises for the Lamb of God, as all come together singing of his worthiness. We are all called to strive for the inner peace of mind he offers. Let me break this down, if I can: "Power and wealth" first. I am not a wealthy person. I never have been. My wealth and power of self-worth comes from the struggles I have experienced. By the grace of God, and often prayers answered, I survived, wealthy in blessings. Next we focus on "wisdom and might." To have wisdom and knowledge always at hand is a fable we wish for, and yet, for us

to follow Christ example, he has the wisdom we can gain. The strength and might he offers is like no other. Next is "honor and glory" of which we would all strive to achieve. Through the "Lamb that was slaughtered" we take the role of discipleship in honor of Him, feeling the glory and strength of the multitudes singing praises. And last: "blessing." To have the blessing of God's ever presence, fulfills his promises of eternal love and acceptance. Prayer: Lamb of God, you taught us it is possible to live humbly while achieving power and wealth, wisdom and might, honor and glory. Once we discover the blessings He provides, we should feel worthy of His blessings and experience all of these things through Christ. Amen

Saturday, May 7, 2022

Psalm 23:4: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff – they comfort me." I have a close friend, an old neighbor and we've been characterized as in a "complicated relationship." We've always been there for each other for over 20 years now. I can only do so much though, for he's had the demon of alcohol on his shoulders for as long as I've known him. I've long left it in God's hands, because the stress of observing his decline has often left me broken. I turn to prayer, in my "valley of darkness." My prayers have been answered by the touch of God's hand (and the pain of a gaseous ulcer). He has not had any alcohol since and has sworn off it entirely. He had previously convinced himself he couldn't give it up and now I see a complete reversal. He's an intelligent man and finally his mind is clear. I asked for continued pray-

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ers for him and to rejoice with me! Another soul is healing and living life as intended through God's promise for all! Prayer: Merciful God, how can I express my gratitude for answered prayers. I feel comfort in knowing you were in control and I trust in you always. Amen

Sunday, May 8, 2022

John 10:24-28: "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. "

The Jews were impatient and wanted direct, straightforward answers. Their expectations of the coming Messiah were not of a meek man, teaching and healing. They wanted a great ruler and conqueror for the masses. Jesus was sent to live among the masses, among his sheep, and offer salvation for all. He teaches that each person can achieve eternal life by believing in His true presence. Yes, we are all impatient at times and want answers, but Jesus opens our eyes and our senses in seeing signs of God's work. Listen to his words and prepare your hearts and minds for the promised eternal life as one, sharing his praise. Prayer: Father on High, we joyfully gather as flocks of sheep, following Christ's lead. Your promise of eternal life together keeps us sustained, feeding us spiritually through your words and good deeds. Amen