



Wednesday Prayer

6th Sunday of Easter – God does not leave us alone

Jesus says to his disciples, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

John 14:18-19

This piece of God’s word sits, in the gospel of John, between Jesus washing the disciples’ feet at the last supper and Jesus being arrested in the garden of Gethsemane and eventually hung on a cross. It is part of four chapters worth of red text in Bibles that highlight Jesus’ words in red. Four chapters of prayers and provocations from Jesus for the disciples so that they would finally understand and be prepared for all that was to come; especially for their own sending into the world as witnesses and proclaimers and pictures of God’s love and grace, righteousness and justice.

The word gospel means “good news” and the incredible good news is that God does not leave us alone. God, who created the universe, comes to us in Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. We are not abandoned or forgotten by God. Ever. No matter what. I continue to be able to preach and pray in the ministry I’m called to because God came to me in my dark corner and whispered boundless love into my heart.

The good news is that the world can still see and experience and know God’s love and grace - in and through *us*. Because Jesus lives we live. God’s grace finds the Holy Spirit taking up residence in our hearts and God’s love is poured into people’s lives through *you*. Imagine that.

Those who still sit in dark corners, who’ve been abandoned and forgotten and exploited by humanity - by strangers and family members alike - wait for that message to come shining into their lives.

Where are we called to have our eyes peeled for those who are at risk of being exploited and stand in the gap for them physically and spiritually? How might we talk with our children, teens and young adults about the world and about God’s presence in the world in a way that empowers them to have and create safe, healthy relationships and communities? Where are you called this week to be a picture of God’s love through your advocacy for policies that will make a safer world for our children?

“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

Holy God, continue to come near to us that we might be drawn near to one another, and in that drawing find your face of love and grace, justice and peace. Amen.

Written by Pastor Liz Eide, who serves at Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood, MN, and is a member of the Cherish All Children Advisory Board.