

Monday of the Sixth Week of Easter – Prayer for the Week

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God is the giver of all that is good. That can sometimes be very difficult to see. Corrie Ten Boom recounts looking in wonder and perplexity at her sister who, in her daily prayers, thanked God for the one thing they had in the concentration camp: fleas. How could she thank God for these vermin? It was only later, after her sister died, that she realized that the fleas were important for keeping the other gift that God had given them, a single copy of the Bible. The guards were so afraid of getting infested themselves that they did not search her flea-infested barracks. Their Bible was safe, protected by a pest.

How would God have us think and act in these days of pandemic? Some of the things which I treasure and long for at church are denied to me. I genuinely like meeting with people and sharing my week's events over a cup of coffee after the service. I look forward to kneeling side by side and receiving the sacrament together, from a common chalice. Will I ever do that again? I long to comfort a friend with a hug or laugh with a child over something that happened in school. I could simply focus on what I have lost. But I do not think that is what God is calling me to think about. Right now, God is calling me to reimagine church and the proclamation of his kingdom. I must remember that Jesus did not tell me to go to a specific building every Sunday, drink coffee together, and serve on a committee or two. He told his first disciples and me, one of his later disciples, to proclaim the Good News, the Gospel.

How shall I accomplish that in these days of pandemic? God give me guidance to think of this rightly. Help me to remember that the kingdom is not about what I want but about Jesus' kingdom coming and Jesus' will being done. Help me to be part of that now. Help me to pray Your kingdom come and Your will be done.

God be with you until we meet again. In Jesus' love and mercy, Pastor Wulf