

Yours, Mine, and Ours

Easter People: Part 5 “Yours, Mine, and Ours”

Rev. Cameron D St.Michael –May 21, 2023

7th Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Reflection: Psalm 68

Greeting: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

Prayer: Lord of Life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead you restored to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Throughout these fifty days of Easter, we proclaim the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and forever. Amen.

Reflection: Psalm 68

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. Sing to God; sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds— his name is the LORD— be exultant before him. Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God! (Psalm 68:1-10; 32-35 NRSV)*

We read the words of Psalm 68 and hear of joy with the Lord. That we share in the hope that God gives us. That God is a God of justice, helping those in need. How can you share God's justice with those around you? Who are you praying for today? How will you follow up and act with Christ for your prayers? How can we come together and celebrate God's incredible love? How has your life been changed because of Christ's death and resurrection?

Prayer: O God, Holy One, our altar, our cloud: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your temple. Accept the sacrifices we offer, and draw us into the fire of your Spirit. We thank you for all you have already done and the great love that has been shown to us. We lift up our joys and our concerns, bringing all things before you. May we experience your grace in our laughter and our tears. May you strengthen us in sorrow and in celebration, knowing you are with us. And may you guide us in love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

Now let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Sermon:

Our scripture readings for today come from the New Revised Standard Version Bible. Our first reading for today comes from 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 12 through 14 and chapter 5 verse 6 through 11.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 NRSV)*

Our next reading comes from John chapter 17 verse 1 through 11.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. (John 17:1-11 NRSV)*

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

It took me a bit to figure out where I was going with this last lesson in our after Easter series. And I think it's because every time I tried sitting down with these readings it felt a bit like a riddle or a tongue twister. I say that because there's so much in our readings for today about who is glorifying who and who is glorified in whom and there is this feeling of all of it being mixed together. I don't think it's necessarily bad for it all to get mixed together because I think that really is the point. I say that because there's a common thread between our readings for today about how we work together in Christ, for God the Father, with the support of the Holy Spirit. And because of that, we're all mingled together. That Christ is in the Father and the Father in him, and we are in Christ and we are one with Christ. And we have all of this rolling together and it means that there's not as clear of a division as we might think. That can change the way that we do think about these things. Because it stops being that this is yours and this is mine. But that it is all ours, both our sufferings and our successes. That we share them because we share in one God the Father, and we share in Christ the Son, and we share in a Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us in good times and bad.

As we have seen with our readings from 1 Peter, Peter has been talking a lot about handling suffering and how to work through it and understand it and it's no different in our reading for today. Peter reminds us of Christ's suffering, and that if we are with Christ, and if we are suffering because of our work for Christ, then we suffer gladly because we are blessed by the Spirit. And I think what Peter is saying is a great way for us to remember that we are never alone in our suffering, because we are united in Christ. It also means that we share in it together, which means that if one of us is suffering then we suffer together, all so that we can help each other through those situations. That we can put all of our anxieties on Christ, that we can put them with him and he will take them to God and God will help us with all of it. That we're not called to deal with everything on our own. That we're there to support each other. God is there looking after, Christ is there to help us, and the Holy Spirit is there to guide us through those difficulties. That we will be restored supported, strengthened because of our bond in Christ.

And that bond can be a little confusing when we look to our gospel reading for today. And I don't say that because the idea itself is all that confusing. I say it because this section can be a little hard to follow because there's so much of this back and forth. We have who is in who, who is with who, who is supporting who, and it can feel a little confusing but the way it's worded. And I tell you that as somebody who's read it plenty of times, who understands it, and who for the most part gets it. But it can still leave my head spinning a little because of how much is in here. And it starts with this proclamation Jesus makes. That Jesus asks that the Father to glorify the Son so the Son can glorify the Father. All so that he can demonstrate that God the Father has given authority to the Son to give eternal life to the people that God has given the Son. And this is all so they can know that the Father is the one true God and that he sent the Son. And that God is glorified in the work of the Son so that the Son should be

glorified by the Father in the work that the Father has sent for the Son, so that the people that the Father gave to the Son can be glorified through the work of the Son because of the Father. And that can be a bit of a mouthful. Christ is saying that it's now time for the Father to glorify the Son so that everyone can understand and follow both God the Father and Christ the Son and know the Holy Spirit that will be sent as an advocate for the people. It is about unity. That the people are of God so God gave them to the Son and the Son helped them so they could glorify God the Father. And it is about this shared knowledge. That Christ has instructed his followers so that people may know and do good. That they may help each other. That they may love each other. And that they can believe in God the Father, because of Christ the Son. We then run into another section that can be a bit of a mouthful about who is in who. And it comes to a head with Christ saying, "All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you." And we get this idea that it is not a separation but a uniting in faith so that people know they are never alone. There's not some that are of the Father and some that are of the Son and some that are of the Spirit. No, they are united together as one and we are united as one in them. If you are of the Father you are of the Son, And if you are of the Son you are of the Spirit. What's yours is mine and what's mine is yours, and together it is ours.

This can get more confusing the more we dig into it, but what I wanted to touch on for this was what this means for us for unity. Because part of what it says is that if we are of Christ then we are one in Christ. But also, that we are one with God, that we are one with the Spirit, and that we are one with each other. Not just one in love, but that we share a common bond because we share in God. And because of that we share in everything. And we see this throughout the early church. They literally shared in everything together, taking this kind of idea to heart. If we are all under Christ's care, then that means that we are of Christ. But if we are of Christ, it means that we are of God the Father. And if we are of God the Father, we are of the Holy Spirit, our advocate and our teacher helping to guide us and lead us. So, we are of the Son, of the Father, and of the Spirit. That we are one in Christ, one in the Father, and one in the Spirit, which means that we are one together. And that if Christ cares for us, then we should care for each other. If God loves us, we should love each other. And if Christ shows care and compassion for all people, then we should show care and compassion for all people. And if Christ reaches out to the least in the last, to welcome them and comfort them, then we should reach out to the least and the last and to welcome them and comfort them. And that we reach out to them to let them know that we are one, because if they are in Christ and we are in Christ, then we are one together. And their problems are our problems. Your problems are my problems. Your joy is my joy. Your struggle is my struggle. And our triumph is shared together.

I say this because sometimes we get into a very what I would call an American mindset. We talk about pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. That everyone's success is theirs and theirs alone. That ever man is an island. That God helps those who help themselves, which is not in truth, anywhere in the Bible. We are good at thinking like that. We are good at boxing

ourselves off and being a community of one. We are quick to point out that what's mine is mine and what's yours is yours. But we aren't as quick to talk about what is ours. We so often want to say "it's somebody else's problem. It's somebody else's struggle." Here's the problem with that. It's always somebody else's problem until we discover that it has become our problem because we ignored it. I think the problem there is that we forget about treating people how we would want to be treated. We forget about loving them as ourselves. If I am struggling, I would want someone to reach out and help me. Because of that, I firmly believe in reaching out to others when they are struggling. Because if Christ cares for them and loves them, their struggle is his struggle. Would I reach out to help Christ in need? Would you? If Christ was good enough to claim me as his own, I want to be good enough to reach out to the others he's claimed as his own. Christ says he is glorified in us, and if he is glorified in us, then we have glorified the father. If we have glorified the Father, that must be the work of the Spirit. And how can we glorify the Son to glorify the Father through the Spirit? By loving our neighbor. By caring the way that Christ cares. By remembering that if Christ cares then we should care. That if someone is in Christ's care, they should be in our care. That if they are loved by Christ, that we should love. In turn, if I believe Christ loves you, I should love you. If you are in need, then you are in need with Christ, and I am in need with you. And because of that I will do all that I can so that our need is fulfilled. That if you are hurting, then you are hurting in Christ, and if you are hurting in Christ, then I hurt with you, and I want to help you.

We do this so that the Father may be glorified when we do the work of the Son through the Holy Spirit. And that was what resonated with me as I read this. That, as confusing as it can, be that idea of what's yours is mine and what's mine is yours, and together this is ours struck a chord with how we should live this life. Because that's how we make God's kingdom here on earth. That our prayers not be that somebody else finds a way to make things happen, but that we are strengthened to make things happen. That we are strengthened to make this earth a little more like God's kingdom. That we are strengthened in our prayers to help one another. That we are strengthened in our prayers to share in our suffering so that we may end suffering. All so that we may share in hope. Because in the end, that is what Easter means to me. That through Christ's death and resurrection, we are shown love and we are given hope. That we find hope eternal through the resurrection. Because it's hope that we can live a better life, hope that Christ can teach us to be better people, to love one another, to end suffering, to end hate, and inspire hope in others. And it is a hope that I keep in my heart always. The hope of Easter stays alive in me throughout the year, renewed every year when I celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. Because he delivers us from slavery to sin and death into life everlasting. And I can't help but have the hope that I can share it with the world. That everyone can come to know Christ's love. That they can come to know it because we share it. That they can come to know the hope of Easter because we share that hope. That everyone's world is made a little bit better because we share in it together and make the world a better place to be in because we carry Christ in us always. So let us reflect the love of Christ in all that we are in all that we do.

And let us share in the hope of Easter, that the resurrection is a symbol of God's love for all people. From this day forth and forevermore. Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Pardon: God, you are with us even when we turn away from you. Guide us back into your loving arms. Judge us not by the perfection of our actions but show us mercy and love. We have strayed like lost sheep from your ways, failing both in what we have done and what we have failed to do. Bring us back into your fold that you may guide us and lead us in all things. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us. May we walk in your love and trust your ways. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you. May the Lord forgive all your sins and lift you up in love through Jesus Christ our Lord, and by the Holy Spirit keep you in life eternal. Amen.

Offering: If you are so moved to make an offering, you may send it to the church treasurer, or you may send it to the PO Box listed below. We are still the church, and the church still needs your support to keep doing all the important work that we do.

Lord's Prayer

Dismissal with Blessing: May we go forth reflecting God's love in our lives as we go forth in the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Current Series – Easter People

Our current series looks at how we live as people who are forever changed by the Easter miracle. Each week we explore another aspect of how our lives are changed because of Christ and how we are called to live as Easter people.

April 23rd – Eyes Open – 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 30th – Stray Sheep – 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-18

May 7th – Finding the Way – 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 14th – One in Love – 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 21st – Yours, Mine, and Ours – 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Prayer List

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| Rev Charliam Renner | Bishop Frank Beard | Our Conference | Our Healthcare Workers |
| Patti Corder and the Greenup | Ambulance Crew | Our Healthcare Workers | Eric Veach |
| Ed & Verna Titus | Henry Catey | Jake Kiser | Cindy Cisney |
| Tricia Adkins | Don Stewart | Ronnie Winstead | Lauren Stewart |
| Tom Finley | Laura Carlen | Rosie Chancellor | Chuck Hogan |
| Brittany Gilbert | Phil Hawickhorst | Ray Carr | Jane Williams |
| Alice Sherwood | Richard Durham | Kathy Hanks | Steve Carlen |
| Emily Blade | Tim Schnauz | Donna Carlen | Ernie Peters |
| Jess Shoot | Stanley Kiser | Corine Howard | Don Gilmore |
| Shirley Jester | Connie Brown | Don Blade | Marsha Overton |
| Darin Pease | Linda Carlen | Michael Nichols | Paul Cox |
| Taylor Waldorf | Harriet Tucker | Becky McGuiness | Joyce Sly |
| Sharla Tucker | Carson White | Dave Green | |
| Gary & Mary Winterrowd | Leo Smith | Sue & Bob Smyser | Larry Thompson |
| Evelyn Sue Icenogle | Greg Williams | Martha Roberts | Charlie & Charlotte Baxter |
| Paul Schulte | Lavon Figgins | Kara Newton | |

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