

St. Alban's E-Blast
The Week of 2/17-2/23/20

Judith's Ramblings
February 17, 2020

In Sunday's Old Testament reading from Deuteronomy, Moses was reminding us as well as the people of God that we are covenantal people. When we say "yes" to inviting Jesus into our lives, when we are sealed with the Holy Spirit in Baptism and when that same Spirit is released in our Confirmation, we become people of God, covenantal people. Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament scholar, writes in *The Bible Makes Sense*:

"The good news calls our whole way of existence into question. If we are indeed 'in God's image,' then the central task of our life is covenant-making and covenant-keeping. It is a promise both rich and heavy for us to say that finally we shall be like God...Our central human vocation is to be with brothers and sisters and for brothers and sisters. That is who God is...that is who we are called to be, expected to be, promised to be." As I read that quote of Brueggemann, two prepositions, WITH and FOR, jumped out at me. And upon reflection, truly does sum up our covenantal living. We are to be with and to be for. I walk with my brothers and sisters. I share with my brothers and sisters. I provide for my brothers and sisters. I care for my brothers and sisters. Just who are my brothers and sisters?

Sounds much like the rich young man asking, "who is my neighbor". If we are created in the image of God, if it is His breath breathed into us, then all humankind are our brothers and sisters. What a challenge for me to be a covenantal person! I think of Moses looking over the crowd as he is giving his farewell speech, reminding this second generation of what brought them to this point in their relationship with God, of the choice that is ever before them: blessings and curses. Prosperity and adversity. I wonder if he ever thought "if I only had not swung my staff and hit that rock". I don't know about you, but more times than I can count I have thought "if only I had not", but then, perhaps, I would not have learned anything about obedience!

In just days we will be reminded that "we are dust and to dust we shall return" and will begin the season of Lent, a time of walking with Jesus to Jerusalem, to experience the agony of the Cross. I encourage you to walk that path, to mediate on the road Jesus took so that you and I could have life abundantly.

Judith+

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

COMING on Good Friday – An Interactive Prayer Walk. On Sunday at Church, Jane Shovar mentioned that we will be offering an interactive Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. It is described as a "guided prayer walk through the Journey to the Cross." One will have space and time to reflect on the events of Jesus' crucifixion in a unique and meaningful way. Mark your calendars for April 10!

+++++

SHROVE TUESDAY

Please join us on Tuesday, February 25 for a feast of pancakes, sausage, applesauce and fun, to continue this tradition. Judith gave us fun and interesting different cultures' histories of the meaning of Shrove Tuesday. It will be a free will donation to allow Nicole to receive additional songs for your choir.

EVENTS COMING UP

- Sun, Feb 23:** Choral Evensong at Trinity Cathedral is presenting a "Renaissance Evensong" At 4:00 pm. It's from the Latin, "Vesperis", for 'evening'. The service consists of Hymns, anthems, canticles, responses and prayers that are sung or chanted.
- Tues, Feb 25:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner from 5:30-7:00 pm. There is a sign up sheet for donation of ingredients.
- Wed, Feb 26:** Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm, with Fr. Sinclair Ender from the Cathedral as guest Celebrant
- Wed, Mar 4:** The first Lenten Soup Supper at 5:00 pm with a discussion following on prayer. There is a sign-up sheet for both meat and meatless soups as well as bread to donate.
- Mar 6 – 8:** A Lenten Retreat sponsored by St. Peter's Church and held at Benet House Retreat Center, 2200 88th Ave., West in Rock Island. "Boundless Compassion" is the theme and is based on the writings and teachings by Sr. Joyce Rupp. "In an era of violence, hostility and a them or us attitude, how can the wide divisions and enmities be lessened? What will it take to draw forth the loving-kindness inherent within one's self and others? What can be done to live more compassionately? Registrations are on the narthex table.

Birthdays this week: 19th Andrew Hintermeister / 20th Sarah Callaway / 21st Kolten Showers

Anniversary: 23rd Mike and Sue McCoy

Memorials: 17th Shirley (Capion)

Readings, Readers and more for
2/23/20

WORSHIPING WITHOUT JUDITH