



Mission Interpretation

Telling stories of our hands doing God's work

Mission Memo #457

May 28, 2019

Seventh Sunday of Easter (June 2, 2019)



It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Lord for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

Readings

- [Acts 16:16-34](#) - *While in prison, Paul speaks to the jailer, who is then baptized*
- [Psalm 97](#) - *Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous. (Ps. 97:12)*
- [Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21](#) - *Blessed are those who wash their robes*
- [John 17:20-26](#) - *Jesus prays that the disciples will be one and abide in his love*

Praying for You

Today's gospel reading is first and foremost a prayer. It is Jesus' prayer, and we are given the privilege of listening in as he prays on behalf of his disciples and people of all times and places. Listeners are given a glimpse of Jesus' mission for the world—that all may be drawn into the life of the triune God. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusts this particular community of disciples—but also our communities, our lives, and our world—into the care of God.

What is it Jesus is doing when he prays? What is it the church does when it prays on behalf of the world and other people? To be prayed for by another is to know one's life is cared for and has value to the one praying on your behalf. It is to know that much of the future is out of one's own control but rests instead in the care of the Triune God. To be prayed for is to be vulnerable, dependent, and deeply loved. Here is the astoundingly good news: Jesus prays for you, and for the communities in which we find ourselves. Whether your cup is empty or full, whether your community is in crisis or experiencing joy, whether your future is foggy or clear,

Jesus loves you deeply and your life is bound to the God who loved you before the foundations of the world. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusted your life and the church's life and its entire future to the Father. What glorious good news that the future rests in the care of the Triune God, and that we, the church, are set free to make God known to the world.

Midwest Storms



A series of powerful and destructive tornadoes has ripped through parts of the central U.S. in recent days, leaving destruction in its wake. Last week in Missouri, at least three people were killed, homes and businesses have been destroyed, and rescues are still underway. Tornadoes have also been reported in Oklahoma, Iowa, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. These

tornadoes were part of a series of more than 170 weather events to strike the region in the last week, with the potential for more severe weather in the coming days. Unfortunately additional storms occurred over the holiday weekend and are continuing across wide areas of the country this week.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with those in the impacted states, including local synods, congregations and social ministry organizations, to provide immediate relief and long-term support. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. tornadoes" will be used entirely (100%) to help those affected by tornadoes until the response is complete. Together, we can support those who are on the long road to recovery. Please join in prayer and partnership as you share the word and encourage [use this bulletin insert in your congregation to help spread the word.](#)

[Seismic storm: In the boat together with Jesus beside us](#)

In light of the above item, the following seems especially timely:

Our advocacy in light of disasters intensified by climate change brought together a group of faith and community leaders for an event hosted in Washington, D.C. by ELCA Advocacy in the spring of 2019. The challenge may be seismic, but the Rev. Amy E. Reumann offered insight and guidance on contemporary issues and scriptural and church resources, preparing us to care in this storm.

Following are excerpts of the [text](#) from which Pr. Reumann preached.

The story [of Jesus calming the storm is] about Jesus' power and is also a tale of the disciples who are uncertain about their own abilities... Perhaps fear rendered them unable to act.

...But Jesus, after he subdues the seismic event, turns to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

...Facing the full reality of the climate crises is terrifying. It triggers in me flight or fright. When I dwell on the details, it is immobilizing. As ELCA Advocacy, climate cuts across every issue area that we cover and makes it worse, from food security to national security. From increased migration and refugees to heighten international conflict and local violence. From health care to habitat loss. We have a storm, and it is here, and we are perishing.

...What we are facing as a church, as a nation, as a world, demands all of us be sent out. We are focused as a church on vital congregations and building leaders, but we only need them on a planet that can support human habitation. The offense against climate change must be multifaceted, and there is a part for everyone.

...Jesus has given us what we need. My fervent hope and prayer is that we will chart a course as a church together to persistently and resolutely be bearers of God's fierce love and deep justice. Peace, be still. We got this. Together in the boat - let us go over to the other side.

The sermon is available [in text](#) (pdf available on elca.org/resources/advocacy) and video (message transcends inconsistent quality of available video).

Update on ICE arrest of Racine student pastor

We shared information in the past two weeks on the detention by ICE of Pastor Betty Rendon, who serves at [Emaus Lutheran Church in Racine](#).

Bishop Paul Erickson of the of the Greater Milwaukee Synod provided the following update on Pastor Betty Rendon:

"According to the ICE online system, Betty and Carlos have been transported to an ICE facility in Jena, Louisiana. This is near the ICE airport in Alexandria, LA, and we believe they are scheduled to depart for Colombia as early as tomorrow morning May 28.

Prayer vigils are scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday) evening at 6:00 pm in Racine, WI, Chicago, and New Orleans. We must pray; we must act; we must not give up; we must vote."



Members of the community at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago are coming together in the Augustana Chapel for a vigil and press conference on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6pm. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be among the speakers.

Advocates are encouraging people to call Wisconsin Senators Baldwin (202-224-5653) and Johnson (608-240-9629) and Illinois Senators Durbin (312-353-4952) and Duckworth (312-886-3506) and ask them to call for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to stop the deportation of Pastor Betty Rendon.

Educating for peace in a multi-religious world

(LWI) - People of faith must be "keepers of our brothers and sisters," especially the poor, the marginalized, the migrants and the refugees. That was the message of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Assistant General Secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights, Dr Ojot Miru Ojulu, at an ecumenical and interfaith conference on 'Promoting Peace Together'.

Religious leaders from different Christian churches and faith traditions gathered at Geneva's Ecumenical Center on 21 May for the event, jointly organized by the [World Council of Churches](#) (WCC) and the [Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue](#)(PCID). The conference focused on two new documents which stress that faith can never be used to incite violence and that all believers have a moral responsibility to foster a culture of peace. The declaration on '[Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together](#)' was signed by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar in Abu Dhabi in February 2019, and a new WCC-PCID booklet on '[Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious World](#)' was launched at the Geneva event. [\(Click here for more\)](#)

Lutherdale - Summer is coming and with it Summer Camp opportunities. Check out the Lutherdale events. There is something for everyone

<https://www.lutherdale.org/programs/upcoming-events/>

Coming Events:

Date	Event/Activity	Resources
June 7 and 8, 2019	2019 MC Synod Assembly, Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Dr., Tinley Park, IL	For more information visit http://www.mtselca.org/assembly/
Aug 5-10, 2019	ELCA Churchwide Assembly, at the Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee, Wisc.	For more information visit https://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly
Sept 8, 2019	"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday At as many locations as possible	For information and resources see https://elca.org/dayofservice