

Raised to New Life
Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2014 - 178th Anniversary of our Church

Prayer Thought For The Week

As we are together, praying for peace, let us truly be with one another. Let us be aware of the source of being common to us all and to all living things. We praise you, Great God.

Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts with compassion—towards all living beings and towards ourselves. Let us pray that all persons realize they are brothers and sisters, all nourished from the same source of life.

We especially remember the people of Brunei today. We pray that the people of Brunei, and the people of all nations, will seek to establish the ways of peace and justice.

Let us pray that we cease to be the cause of suffering for one another. Let us plead with ourselves to live in such a way that will not deprive other living beings of air, water, food, shelter, or the chance to live.

We come with humility, with awareness of the existence of life beyond our own, and of the needless suffering that surrounds us. We pray for the establishment of God's peaceable reign in our hearts and on the Earth. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the Redeemer, *Amen*.

Stewardship Thought For The Week

To become a "Good Steward" we are admonished to follow the example of Christ in our homes and daily lives and to bear personal witness of him. We are also admonished to be regular in private prayer day by day; to read the bible carefully; to attend church every Sunday; to receive the Holy Communion faithfully and regularly; to give personal service to church, neighbors and community; to uphold the sacrament of marriage entrusted by Christ to his Church; to care that children are brought up to love and serve God & to give money for the work of the church at home and overseas.

How are you going to say "Thank you" to God?

Thought For The Week

Mini Thought for the Week
Remember, every child is gifted,
They just open their packages at different times!

Thought #1 - Experiencing sadness, loss, grief, hurt, etc.

One of the most difficult challenges for many of us is when someone we care about is experiencing sadness, loss, grief, hurt or other very difficult emotions. We often feel helpless because we can't fix it. We can't take away the pain. But what we can do is to let the other person know that they are not alone. And that can be very powerful.

"At some of the darkest moments in my life, some people I thought of as friends deserted me. Some because they cared about me, and it hurt them to see me in pain."

“Others because I reminded them of their own vulnerability, and that was more than they could handle.”

“But real friends overcame their discomfort and came to sit with me. If they had no words to make me feel better, they sat in silence, which is better than saying, ‘You’ll get over it.’ Or ‘It’s not so bad, others have it worse.’”

“And I loved them for it!”

Thought #2 - “The religious tradition of the church is groundless, emotional mumbo-jumbo”

At the University of Chicago Divinity School each year they have what is called "Baptist Day". On this day each one is to bring a lunch to be eaten outdoors in a grassy picnic area.

Every "Baptist Day" the school would invite one of the greatest minds to lecture in the theological education center, one year they invited Dr. Paul Tillich.

Dr. Tillich spoke for 2 ½ hours "proving" that the Resurrection of Jesus was false. He quoted scholar after scholar and book after book. He concluded that since there was no such thing as the historical resurrection, the religious tradition of the church was groundless, emotional mumbo-jumbo, because it was based on a relationship with a risen Jesus, who, in fact, never rose from the dead in any literal sense. He then asked if there were any questions.

After about 30 seconds, an old, dark skinned preacher with a head of short-cropped, woolly white hair stood up in the back. "Doctah Tillich, I got one question," he said as all eyes turned toward him. He reached into his sack lunch and pulled out an apple and began eating it. "Doctah Tillich..." CRUNCH, MUNCH "My question is a simple question..." CRUNCH, MUNCH... "Now, I ain't never read them books you read..." CRUNCH, MUNCH..." and I can't recite the Scriptures in the original Greek..." CRUNCH, MUNCH ... " I don't know nothin' about Niebuhr and Heidegger..." CRUNCH, MUNCH...

He finished the apple. "All I wanna know is: This apple I just ate,-----was it bitter or sweet?" Dr. Tillich paused for a moment and then answered in exemplary scholarly fashion: "I cannot possibly answer that question, for I haven't tasted your apple."

The white-haired preacher dropped the core of his apple into his crumpled paper bag, looked up at Dr. Tillich and said calmly, "Neither have you tasted my Jesus!"

The 1,000 plus in attendance could not contain themselves. The crowd erupted with applause and cheers. Dr. Tillich thanked his audience and promptly left.

Can you say that you have “tasted Jesus” in your life? When you can answer, “Yes” to this question, TELL SOMEONE!