



Wednesday Prayer

Holy Trinity Sunday – We boast in our hope and in our sufferings

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the Glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5: 1-5

What’s with this word “boast” repeatedly used in today’s text? Many of us grew up learning that boasting is something to avoid because it implies an attitude of self-absorbed pride. It certainly does not seem like a natural verb to connect with “suffering.” However, perhaps in this context, the Greek word translated as “we boast” is better understood as “we hold our heads up high.” Our adversity is a Spirit-led call to action rooted in love for all people.

Cherish All Children recently launched a new logo and website. The updated logo reflects our mission to “educate, equip, and engage churches and communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking, and our vision to raise healthy generations.” The child pictured is in the jubilant posture of hope.

For centuries victims of sexual exploitation have been largely misunderstood. Secular society labeled them “criminals” or trouble makers. Unfortunately, religious communities also have a history of labeling them as sinners, outcasts, and even “unclean.” Thanks to the work of organizations like Cherish All Children, state-funded Safe Harbor laws, and trauma-informed services evolving throughout the nation, survivors of exploitation are beginning to be officially recognized as victims of a complex crime. They deserve dignity, respect, and perhaps most importantly, a voice.

This shift in attitudes takes time - A LOT of time. Therefore, we can easily become disheartened as some efforts are met with resistance. However, as Paul assures his readers in the book of Romans, we can hold our heads up high. With this God-given confidence, together we can find the strength and courage to continue raising awareness and offering communities steps of primary prevention.

Loving Creator, grant us the lasting peace that can only come from your enduring grace. Guide us in your wisdom as we continue this challenging work so that someday all youth can “boast” in their own inherent dignity as blessed Children of a loving God. Amen.

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