



Wednesday Prayer

9th Sunday after Pentecost – He sees all humankind

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth — he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds. A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you. Psalm 33:12-17, 22

This Psalm brings us to a time in Israel's history when fear led to a hope and trust in nationhood over righteousness and justice. We, too, are in a time of fear being used by the powerful to use armies and political strength for "victory", leaving behind the true hope of God's unending love.

When I read "he sees all humankind" I am struck by our current border battles, and the stories of children continuing to be separated from parents. From June 2018 to June 2019, over 900 children were separated from parents according to ACLU analysis of government records under judicial supervision.¹ One mother had been prosecuted on a minor drug charge after being forced to deliver a small amount of marijuana to a gang member who had beaten and raped her. Her child was two years old. I am fearful for these children who endure such trauma, being separated from their parents, and therefore vulnerable to a myriad of exploitation now and in years to come. I pray for all who are working for righteousness and justice in this complex issue, and I pray for those in positions of power, to "see all humankind."

To learn more about justice for migrant children, and how you can "work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God's children," visit ELCA's [AMMPARO](http://www.elca.org/ammparo), Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities. (www.elca.org/ammparo)

God, you are our refuge and strength. Lead us away from fear and toward the strength that you can provide us to work with lovingkindness for all humankind. Be with all who suffer, that they know your unending love. Amen.

¹Hajela, D. & Tareen, S. (2019, August 4). Court order hasn't slowed separation at the border. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Associated Press article.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.