



Wednesday Prayer

Holy Week & Easter Sunday – Love one another.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you." Matthew 28:5-7

Love, rejection, fear, great joy. Holy week involves some deep and wide-ranging emotions. And for us this year – all during a time of uncertainty, fear, and loss for many. What does it mean to love our neighbors at a time of social distancing? Jesus washed his disciples' feet, an act of humility and hospitality, and a role reversal as this would normally be done by "lowly" servants. He instructed his disciples to love one another in this way. Today we are seeing everyday humble servants – grocery store clerks, teachers, senior care workers, those who work with homeless folks, and many more – showing unwavering love for neighbor. And many of us are home wondering, what is my role in loving one another during this time?

If you are able, reach out to your local shelter or advocacy center that works to prevent sexual violence and see how you can support their needs now and in the future. Resources are being made available in new and creative ways for those impacted by sexual violence. We can help spread the word that they are not alone, and that help exists. Here is a [resource created to support victims and survivors during COVID-19](#) from the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, including MN resources as well as national hotlines and additional safety information. We can share these tools with those in need.

Now, back to our texts. We know the story. The disciple's love turns to rejection and great fear as Jesus is crucified. Then the women go to the tomb and discover He is risen! Now there is fear mixed with great joy. The women are told to go quickly and tell of the good news. We can move forward with the hope of the resurrection, leaving fear behind. How is the Easter message rearranging our ability to love our neighbor in new ways, with great joy instead of fear?

Loving God, in times of fear and uncertainty, help us to love one another as humble servants. Help us to see our neighbors in need and the ways we can share great joy through our actions and our gifts. Amen.