



## Wednesday Prayer

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – What does your praise look like?

**Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**

**You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

**Psalm 30:10-12**

Easter Alleluias ring out even as we mourn for those suffering through war and injustice across our world. Easter Alleluias ring out as we pray for help in our own families and communities. We rejoice together for all the blessings we are given, and we hold one another in our sorrows.

The Psalmist was in some type of dire situation, even possibly death, from which God spared them. The joy of new life is profound, resulting in praise and dancing!

As I've been gathering again in person with Confirmation classes, Women of the ELCA groups, and others, I feel like there's new life to our work as Cherish All Children. My praise looks very different than the Psalmist, however. It may look like slowing down to listen to the experiences young people share about how they are coming out of the difficulties of these past couple years. It may look like sharing with parents and caregivers how the online worlds our children are ever-present in are both a blessing and a place of potential dangers. And my praise definitely looks like sharing hope for all the ways we work together to keep young people safe.



Here's an image of hopeful action by the community of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in New York. Individuals purchased 200 "Pinwheels for Prevention" with the proceeds going toward their local child advocacy center. What a beautiful vision of praise in our work together.

**Living God, we praise you for the new life you give us each and every day. While we work to end injustice against your children, help us to go forth with joy. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.