



Wednesday Prayer

All Saints Sunday – Surely your reward is great in heaven

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Luke 6:20-23

All Saints Sunday will hold great significance for my family this year as we grieve and celebrate the death of my father who passed away on Reformation Sunday just this week. As we gather to share memories, his life will shine forth in all the ways he blessed those who were poor, hungry, grieving, hated. As a pastor, a husband, father, grandfather, social justice warrior, community member in both urban and rural communities – he lived out the Gospel and encouraged everyone he encountered to do the same.

You’ve heard me say in trainings, presentations, or through these Wednesday Prayers that we are the disciples now, we are the ones to care for the vulnerable, to truly see our neighbors and do the work to support *all* children and youth. This is the legacy my Dad leaves with me, and I know he is now rejoicing in the day and reaping in the rewards of heaven.

My brother, Pastor Jonathan Zielske, wrote about Psalm 40 in his newsletter, sharing, “Psalm 40 has long been my favorite Psalm. It goes back to my high school days, when I heard the Irish rock band U2 put the words to music in a song they simply called “40”. For many, many years, they would close every live concert with it as their final song. It begins:

*I waited patiently for the Lord
He inclined and heard my cry.
He brought me up out of the pit
Out of the miry clay.*

I am now hearing the cry to be brought up out of the miry clay (our mortal body) as a prayer for that ultimate healing, for the gift of salvation to be fully realized.”

As we work in community with one another, supporting both the young and old in our midst, I pray that we not only see the poor, the hungry, those who weep and those who are hated – I pray that we come out of the miry clay to be healed together through the grace of God. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director, with excerpts from Pastor Jonathan Zielske, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Glenwood City, WI.