



“Christ in the House of Simon”, by Dieric Bouts the Elder (1415-1475), Staatliche Museen, Berlin. © Web Gallery of Art. The Gospel lesson this Sunday is the story of Jesus’ visit to the house of Simon the Pharisee, and of the sinful woman whose tears fell on Jesus’ feet and were wiped with her hair. All of the lessons speak of forgiveness, but more particularly of the ministering of “justice with compassion”, in the words of the collect prayer for Sunday. The Web Gallery of Art says this about the responses of the others present, and the weeping woman:

“In a narrow, vaulted room, on the left of which is a window providing a glimpse of a landscape, Simon sits with his guests at a table laid for a meal. On the left of the table the sinner bends down to anoint Jesus’s feet. The host, the only one present wearing shoes, and Peter beside him, observe the incident with astonishment and disapproval. The youthful John at the head of the table seems to be drawing the attention of the donor, a Dominican monk, to it. The latter kneels with hands raised in prayer and, as if he dare not look, averts his gaze.”

“I Don’t Know” Why God Allows Bad Things to Happen, But Jesus Lordship and Compassion Go Hand in Hand

“In my many years of pastoral ministry, one of the questions that has been asked of me more than any others,” the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his sermon Sunday, “is, ‘Why does God allow bad things to happen to people?’

“My answer,” he said, “after 14 years of formal education, three degrees on the wall, and twelve years of pastoral experience, is, ‘I don’t know.’

“Here’s something I do know. Luke tells us, ‘When the Lord saw this woman [the widow of Nain, whose son had died], his heart overflowed with compassion.’ . . .

“I think that when we pray, ‘Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,’ that we are asking the Holy Spirit to make our hearts tender, to give us hearts full of compassion, to help us see people like Jesus saw this woman, so that even when we are not able to fix or to heal others’ pain, we can at least in some way *share* it. . . . I believe that the Holy Spirit wants to give us hearts so full of compassion that when others are in pain, we can enter into it with them, pray for them, and weep with them through the night until joy comes in the morning.

“Let us keep close to our hearts this important truth from Luke,” he said: “*Jesus’ Lordship and compassion go hand in hand.*”

“When your heart is broken, do you believe that God also feels pain? When your tears are the only thing you have to offer God, do you believe that God cries with you? Well, he does.”

“Luke ends this story by telling us that the people praised God, saying, ‘God has visited us today.’ The visitation of God is linked to a miracle, yes; Jesus gives this woman her son back. But do you want to know an even greater miracle? We can share and extend the compassion of Jesus that engendered that resurrection.”

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Sundays

10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service

11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation

11:45 a.m.: Post-service discussion.

6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Evensong, tea, refreshments.

Thursdays: 5:30 p.m.: Evening Prayers. 6:00 p.m.: Singing & discussing hymns.

Readings, 6/17: 2 Sam. 11:26—12:10; Ps. 32:1-8; Gal. 2:11-21; Luke 7:36-50. **6/24:** Zech. 12:8—13:1; Ps. 63:1-8; Gal. 3:23-29; Luke 9:18-24.

Prayer Emphases: The Czech Republic; Church on the Rock; Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, Homedale, ID, and the Rev. Chuck Ryan; Idaho Mountain Ministries; parishioners on El Rancho Place.

For the poor: Ground beef, chicken, bacon, fresh produce, canned fruits and vegetables, milk, butter, cheese, cooking oil, pancake mix, syrup, chili powder, garlic powder, diapers, baby wipes, toilet paper, hand and bath soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream.

God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him, by Timothy Rees (Epworth # 447)

“God is Love: let heav’n adore Him; God is Love: let earth rejoice; Let creation sing before Him, And exalt Him with one voice. He who laid the earth’s foundation, He who spread the heav’ns above, He who breathes through all creation, He is Love, eternal Love. God is Love: and He enfoldeth All the world in one embrace; With unfailing grasp He holdeth Every child of every race And when human hearts are breaking Under sorrow’s iron rod, Then they find that self-same aching Deep within the heart of God.” (vv. 1-2)