



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
May 24, 2017



New and Notable...



Thoughts from Lori

I should be writing about Ascension and Pentecost today, given that tomorrow (Thursday) is the Feast of the Ascension and ten days later will be Pentecost. But I just can't. I can't stop thinking about what it must be like to let your kids go to a concert - isn't that what kids do? - and then have to bury them.

This is, of course, about the tragedy in Manchester, England, last Monday at a concert. Twenty-two people, mostly teenagers, are dead. The youngest victim was eight. And for what?

It's an age old question in many forms: Why is there evil in the world? Why do the innocent suffer? Where is God when terrible, senseless things happen? We ask those questions at times like these. We ask them when natural disaster strikes. We ask them when personal tragedy turns our world upside down. And there are no answers. At least, none that satisfy. None that soothes a ravaged soul or heals a broken heart.

Beware of those who offer pat answers and cheap grace. Things like "He's in a better place now," or "God needed another angel," or "It's God's punishment." (Read the Book of Job for a critique of that last one.) Beware, too, of the suggestion that such things are somehow God's will, or even that God allows them. That makes God unspeakably cruel, and I personally won't accept that.

There is only one thing that helps me, at least in some small measure, and that is the certainty that God weeps over such sorrows. That God's own self held that child as she left this world and entered the next. That God's own self cradled each one who died that night, though that is not likely to be enough for their loved ones as they endure the flood of grief and shock and rage that will threaten to overwhelm them for some time to come. We can only hope that eventually they may find comfort in that image.

As for why God allows such suffering to exist, there's an old story (that I can't put my hands on at the moment) which goes something like this: *Upon arriving at the throne of God, the new resident of the heavenly realm is allowed to ask God one question, so she asked this, "Why, God, did you allow so much suffering? Poverty, illness, violence?" To which God responded, "Why did you?"*

While we human beings don't account for all suffering, we are, it seems to me, responsible for much of it. So, what are we going to do about those things? Poverty? Injustice? Violence? What kind of world are we prepared to help God redeem and save?

May God have mercy on all the victims of the Manchester tragedy. And may we be moved to be co-creators with God of the new creation promised in the Resurrection.

Faithfully,
Loritt

***Message from Paul Block and
the Kolba Family***

The family of Georgiann Kolba wishes to express their thanks to the people of St. Paul's, especially to everyone who contributed to Georgiann's funeral, flowers, and reception. It was greatly appreciated.

A Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore

Feast Day of Bishop Jackson Kemper

The feast day of the first missionary bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper (1789-1870) is Wednesday, May 24th. Kemper was born in Pleasant Valley, New York, December 24, 1789. He graduated from Columbia College in 1809 and was ordained a deacon in 1811, and priest in 1814, and in 1835 consecrated Bishop.

Assigned by the Episcopal Church to Missouri and Indiana, he laid foundations also in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and made extensive

missionary journeys in the South and Southwest. Discovering the rough and harsh life of the frontier, Kemper founded several schools to prepare men for the ministry in these areas. His first was Kemper College in St. Louis, Missouri, which failed in 1845 for lack of financial support. In 1842, he founded Nashotah House, in Wisconsin, which remains an active seminary of the Episcopal Church. In 1852, he established Racine College in Racine, Wisconsin, close to Lake Michigan.

Bishop Kemper pushed for the Episcopal Church to pay more attention to the Native American tribes in his missionary region, and encouraged the translation of worship services into their native tongue. He described a service he attended among the Oneida Indians as marked by "courtesy, reverence, worship, and obedience to that Great Spirit in whose hands are the issues of life."

From 1859 until his death in 1870, Kemper was the diocesan Bishop of Wisconsin, but more aptly referred to unofficially as "The Bishop of the Whole Northwest."



What we learn from Bishop Kemper is the value of faith and fervor in our Christian journey. We see the importance of respecting the history of our church in its early formations in the western territories, as well as honoring the peoples who settled our continent long before we arrived. The prayer for Kemper's day pleads, "Grant that the Church may always be faithful to its mission, and have the vision, courage, and perseverance to make known to all people the Good News of Jesus Christ."

In case you missed it....

***Join the folks of St. Mary's for their next
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL****

June 17th

Guests and volunteers eat together and get to know each other.
Great food and conversation.

Note: St. Mary's is a big supporter of our Mobile Food Truck.
Let's return the favor.

Bill and I plan to be there Saturday. Hope you will, too.

Where:

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
210 S. McHENRY AVENUE
CRYSTAL LAKE - 815-459-1009
No RSVP Required - Every 3rd Saturday**

2017 DINNER DATES

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

July 15 August 19 September 16
October 21 November 18 December 16
Free to All! All are Welcome! Family Friendly!

*This meal is offered to those in our community who may be experiencing difficulty in procuring enough food.

The usual fare...

Servants for May 28th

Beth and Jim Lukas - *Ushers*
Jim Lukas - *Lector*
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*
Deb Lang, Charlie Boak - *Eucharistic Ministers*
Darrell Rowe - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Jianna Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*

Children's Chapel

The lesson this week will be "Ascension Day." Leaders will be Bobbi Fiali, Katie Lang, and Bill Lang.



All children are welcome to attend after the service for a snack, bible story, and activity.

On the Calendar...

Noon Eucharist - Every Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.
Music Therapy - Every Friday, 10:00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, June 3, 8:00 a.m.
Pentecost- Wear **Red!**- June 4

Mobile Food Pantry - Saturday, June 17
Vestry - Wednesday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Parish Picnic - Sunday, August 13, 4:00 p.m.
Fall Parish Meeting - Sunday, September 17

Lessons and Hymns

May 28th

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Acts 1:6-14. This is the story of Our Lord's ascension into heaven.

The Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36. This psalm relates to God as a strong, caring, and nurturing Lord.

Second Lesson: I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11. Here, the writer of Peter talks about humility and steadfast faith.

The Gospel: John 17:1-11. This passage relates a very personal prayer of Jesus to God his Father.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 450. "All hail the power of Jesus' Name." The words to this hymn were finalized by a clergyman named Edward Perronet who was in the Anglican Methodist movement with John and Charles Wesley. He later broke off from the Church of England and formed his own independent chapel in Canterbury. The hymn reflects the majestic tone of the psalter and affirms Jesus as the final king, in David's line, who truly saves and redeems all people. The tune "Coronation" was composed by Oliver Holden with the descant added by Michael E. Young for this 1982 hymnal. "Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!"

Sequence Hymn: "Celtic Alleluia." This was written and composed by Fintan O'Carroll, born July 31, 1922 in Wexford, England. On completion of his secondary school studies, he took up a position as a clerk in the national railway. He won first prize in a traditional music competition, aged 12, playing violin, and went on to study violin at home, taking lessons as the opportunity arose. His heart was in music, and he left his railway position in 1967 after 27 years of service, whereupon he completed his degree at Trinity to gain his Bachelor of Music degree.

Presentation Hymn: No. 460. "Alleluia, sing to Jesus." This majestic hymn was written by an English businessman, William Chatterton Dix, who sold insurance, but had a hobby of writing hymns based on his personal faith. This particular hymn is based on Revelation 5:9, "for you were slaughtered and by

your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God." The tune "Hyfrydol" by Rowland Hugh Prichard is remarkable in that it limits itself to a range of only a fifth, save for the final phrase which rises to the sixth (D). Having celebrated God's "goodness and mercy," we go forth singing: "Hark! the songs of holy Zion thunder like a mighty flood; Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood."

Communion Hymn: "Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name." This hymn is a 1991 paraphrase of Psalm 103 from the Taizé Community in France. It was founded by Brother Roger Schutz, with the goal of "building a life together in which the gospel of reconciliation would be a concretely lived reality." During the war he helps people in difficulty and hosts German refugees. In 1942, the Gestapo threatened to arrest Brother Roger, who fled to Switzerland until the end of the war.

Recessional Hymn: No. 182. "Christ is alive!" The author of this new hymn is Brian Wren (b. 1936), Emeritus Professor of Worship, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. He is a writer, preacher, liturgics scholar, and internationally published hymn-poet. Brian is a Minister of the United Reformed Church (UK). Hope Publishing Company owns the 1975 copyrights to the text. The hymn reflects the sacrificial nature of Our Lord's Resurrection. Here is the 4th verse: "In every insult, rift and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives though ever crucified." The tune, "Truro," is from a 1789 Psalm Book, harmonized by Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

From the cartoons created by
The Rev. William P. McLemore



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