

The Week of the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday, July 3, 2022

Scripture: Micah 6:6-8

I am not sure when these verses of Scripture became a travelling companion in life, but I do know they have been settled in for some time now. They are the simplest form of understanding what God requires of us and, I think, of all people.

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has told you, O mortal, what is good.
and what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”

These words are like an anchor in my life, when I am surrounded by competing voices and claims, and when I worry about losing my way. I can cling to these words and find the comfort in knowing that God has already given us the script for daily living. I have also found that when I find myself encountering people of very different beliefs and faith, about these things we can often agree. That is both a comfort and a starting place for conversation and understanding. Things we need in a harsh and divided world. I cannot always make things right; I can concentrate of what God requires of me as mere mortal.

Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God.

Rising each day in our Baptism into Christ, this is God’s plan. Amen.

Prayer: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose triune name we pray. Amen.

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