



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer – 2nd Sunday of Easter

But Peter and the apostles answered (to the high priest), “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”
Acts 5:29-32

It's been almost 20 years ago since my sister-in-law was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a form of cancer that attacks the bone marrow. She went through 5 years of treatment, including chemotherapy and 2 stem cell replacement procedures, before it claimed her life in 2005. During much of this time, she received some kind of blood product almost every day – platelets, whole blood, or red blood cells. The generosity of others willing to donate gallons of blood is what kept her alive. There was no substitute for it, nothing else that our family could have bought and paid for that would have done the same thing. We were so grateful to at least have a few more earthly years with her, and know that it would not have been possible without the blood given by others.

During Holy Week, when we walk through Jesus' trial, crucifixion, death and resurrection, we're reminded that Jesus gave his blood for the forgiveness of our sins. There is nothing else that could do the same thing for us. There is nothing that any of us can buy that saves us from our sin other than the blood Jesus spilled on the cross.

Each year during the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), we bear witness to this sacrifice. Peter's words to the high priest remind us that, as disciples, we're called to bear witness to this profound activity of God each and every day in all that we do. Through prayer, outreach, and advocacy, we can remind those who are being or have been exploited or trafficked, that God's love and grace and freedom is more than we can ever imagine and is for all of us. By using the new life we gained through Christ's sacrifice, we can bring new life to others.

God of overwhelming love and mercy, you gave the blood of your son to wash away our sins. We pray that as we follow you, the Holy Spirit will burn in our hearts and strengthen us to bear witness to your love every day. Just as Jesus' blood was poured out for us, we pray that our gratitude spills out in prayer and action as we witness to your generosity and bring new life to others. Amen.

Today's Wednesday Prayer was written by Kay Kinkel, MA,MSW, formerly rostered as an Associate in Ministry in the ELCA, and now a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.