



Wednesday Prayer

Resurrection of Our Lord – The Good News conquers our worst thing

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Don’t be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.”

Mark 16:5-6

We can all remember a time in our life that we KNEW that we had experienced the worst possible situation we could imagine. Maybe it was the death of a loved one, the end of a marriage or significant relationship, or a professional setback. That was it, we wanted to give up. It felt like there was no hope, no point of going on. For some young people, this could be something as simple as being embarrassed in front of their friends, especially if it was something done by a parent! For other young people, their worst thing could be something much more serious, like living in a home where they don’t feel safe, or loved, respected or cared for, or encountering a person who betrays their trust and exploits them. Whatever our age or circumstances, the feeling in the pit of our stomach sends the message to our brain that somehow, this is the end.

For the family and followers of Jesus, the worst thing was Friday when their beloved son, brother, friend, Rabboni and Lord was taunted, tried and cruelly crucified, died and was placed in a tomb. They were shocked, sad, and scared of what those who took Jesus’ life might also do to them. Was this the end? Is this the end of their hope in a savior, possibly the end of their lives? Surely it felt that way to them. But as Frederick Buechner reminds us,

“Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.”

Some of them went to the tomb on Sunday and found that he had been raised. They discovered that the worst thing is never the last thing.

Caring for our children and youth through education, prayer and advocacy can remind them that no matter how their young lives might look, the worst thing is never the last thing. God always brings something good out of the worst thing. The Easter resurrection is for them, too. Many days might feel like Friday to all of us, but Sunday is coming. On Friday, Jesus joins us in our pain, even when it’s the worst thing. On Easter Sunday, we join in Jesus’ resurrection, in God’s eternal life, love, mercy and forgiveness.

Your mercy is great, oh Lord. We pray for all people who are bound up in injustice, war, hunger, and sex trafficking, trusting that you are with them in the worst thing in their lives, and will lift them up in the resurrection that they might know your never-ending love. Amen.