



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

May 30, 2010
Trinity Sunday
Larry Hollar

RCL: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
LM: Proverbs 8:22-31; Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

The post-Pentecost readings for Sundays in Year C are rich in metaphors of justice and hunger, but this day's passages are among the more abstract as they reflect on facets of the Trinity.

The passage from Proverbs describes the breadth and delightfulness of God's created world, including the soil and springs that produce food. Wisdom always has been part of God's life-offering work, with characteristics both of master worker and little child. Together God and Wisdom rejoice in the inhabited world; we can almost imagine a delighted dance of joy. The passage affirms creation's fundamental goodness and calls each of us to deeper communion with God's world. It echoes the foundational stories in Genesis 1–3 and reminds us of humankind's responsibility to care for the earth. The psalm eloquently reinforces our role as stewards of the earth's well-being. If we take that task seriously, how could we imagine any of God's deeply loved creatures suffering hunger?

The passage from Romans offers solace for justice advocates discouraged when political authorities fail to respond or when the Church's support is lukewarm. If suffering strengthens resolve and eventually leads to hope, those who struggle for a better world may find heart to continue working for justice next month or next year or for decades to come. The Spirit's loving infusion in our hearts affirms that hope has a reason for being and a chance to succeed. Ultimately it can even offer joy.

Sojourners Community founder Jim Wallis tells the story of Yvonne, a hard worker for justice in Honduras during the terrible days when Central America was an active military battlefield and the United States one of the major combatants. Yvonne's task was to carry embattled refugees on her back across a river, swimming from El Salvador to a relatively safe haven in Honduras. She did it day and night, never stopping, because there was always someone waiting, needing her help. Despite her exhaustion, Yvonne's view was that if she didn't help, who would? Clearly she was ripe for burnout. One day a refugee woman asked Yvonne why she never came to worship and pray and join in the parties the refugees organized. Yvonne reminded her that this was a life-or-death struggle. Who could take time to party in the face of that? But the older woman shook



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her head sadly, and gently predicted that the young U.S. woman, however well-intentioned, would soon grow tired of the constant demands and would go back to her comfortable life in the United States. In contrast, she reminded Yvonne, the refugees had no such luxury. Their struggle was for the long haul, indeed for a lifetime, and so they needed to pray together and even party together. Jim Wallis says that Yvonne, after that experience, became the best party person he knows! Her Central American friends taught her how they endure and strengthen themselves and so multiply hope by experiencing what seems in some ways like frivolous joy. In that way the Spirit's love abounds, and hope does not disappoint.

Children's Time

Ask what parties the children have gone to recently. They'll probably mention birthday parties, graduation parties, weddings. Affirm that parties are what we often use to celebrate special events like birthdays or weddings. Point out that you love parties too, and that another reason we party is because we work hard and need time to enjoy ourselves with other people—friends and family. Parties and playing can make us happy and refresh us to continue to do the work God asks us to do. They are a way to show our love for other people and for God, because God wants us to enjoy life.

Musical Suggestions

The Fallow Heart Is God's Own Field—Banquet of Praise 193

Cuando El Pobre (When the Poor Ones)—The United Methodist Hymnal 434

God of the Universe—Banquet of Praise 162

Lord of All Hopefulness—Banquet of Praise 231

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ—Banquet of Praise 213

There's a Spirit in the Air—The New Century Hymnal 294

Praise with Joy the World's Creator—The New Century Hymnal 273

Your Love, O God, Has All the World Created—Gather Comprehensive 713

Reflection from Hunger for the Word, Year C

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