

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

First Sunday in Advent – November 29, 2020

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait

for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain

you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus

Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called

into the fellowship of his Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

– 1 Corinthians 1:4–9 –

There's a saying that comes to my mind when I feel like I cannot say what I really want to say, "Don't talk about it, be about it." Speaking the truth in love means I cannot always blurt out what I really wish I could say! (Been there?) But, there's just so much talk going on around us, all the time. Talk about politics, talk about viruses and masks, talk about how we are inconvenienced and struggle with a new reality during this time of COVID safety measures. But when do we say to ourselves, "Enough talk! Let's do the best we can and continue to rely on the faithfulness of God" ?

At the heart of living in the faithfulness of God is trusting that he is with us, that he hasn't simply created us and left us to our own devices. St. Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were called into the fellowship of Christ for a reason: to live as followers of Jesus. To live like we are followers of Christ means we rely fully on his will, mercy, and care. We are called to share that worldview with others as they struggle with making sense of all the chaos, unrest, and danger in the world. As Christians, we are called to come to terms with what is going on in the world, to be sure, but then we are to stop talking about our woes and start living like we know for certain that God is faithful. If we don't live trusting our Savior, but rather spend a great deal of our time questioning the presence and providence of God, then we are not living the faith. We are not sharing the Good News of the Lord who loves us and cares for us, who saved us from the power of sin and death, and who gives us the promise of eternity.

Sometimes we have to stop talking and get on with trusting. May we be about living like followers of Christ, no matter what's going on. Amen.

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