

Sunday Jan. 29, 2017

Pastoral Prayer

Just and merciful God, it is through your will and work in the world, and in the life and death of your son Jesus Christ, that we are able to discern mere glimpses of your power and wisdom. As your followers, it can be easy for us to stray as we imagine that your power and wisdom are things that we have gained through our own means. So often our call to care for others is cast aside by our own desire for power and recognition, in order to be seen in the same wise and powerful light as you.

Through this desire we tend to neglect the least of these living among us: the poor, the orphaned, the sick, the widow, and the stranger. No matter how lofty our sights, we will never reach the same infinite heights as you. Many of the foolish thoughts and decisions we make are made foolishly in your name. It is our foolishness that leads us to shame, fear, revile, and cast out those who are different from us. May we learn from your wisdom the true meaning of humility, embracing those who are seen as the least of all humanity in the world.

We give thanks that so often it is the people we least expect in the world who show us the power of the gospel at work. Give us today the wisdom we need to care for and comfort those who are different from us in the same manner that we care for and comfort our loved ones. May we be your humble and faithful servants throughout our community, our nation, and our world.

We lift up those who feel like strangers or outsiders in a community where they have lived for many years. We lift up those who feel abandoned or forgotten by loved ones and strangers alike. We lift up those who are sick and weary, and rejoice with those who have cause to celebrate. We do all of this in the name of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.