

Pastor T.C Arnold
4th Sunday of Easter
Isaiah 40:28
May 8th, 2022

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.”

I love having a God that does not faint or grow weary. I love having a God that has understanding of every confusing, mixed up thought I’ve had... every perplexing situation I’ve ever encountered. I love knowing that God’s got it all figured out.

And, like you, I would love it even more if God would descend to us from heaven right now and explain every clouded thought and befuddling situation ever encountered. Then, like you, we wouldn’t be left with so many questions... and even in our despair and sorrow... lash out at God with blame when things in the world don’t go right.

Our God understands and He does not faint or grow weary. That’s good news for Christians who often do... grow faint, grow weary. That’s good news for Christians who often do not understand.

In the Gospel text for today, Jesus shares with the Disciples about His ascension... before the ascension takes place. Jesus the Lord knows exactly how and why this takes place. He even tries to explain that they need not be sorrowful or become faint because He’s going... but not really going. He’s going, but coming back better. That’s not easy to grasp. Not for the Disciples in that day, nor is it even easy for us who knows exactly how this all played out. We know enough about life’s twists and turns... about life’s “lack of understanding” and “misunderstandings” to at least relate a little bit to what the Disciples were experiencing.

Here’s an example. Today is Mother’s Day, of course. Moms, did you know and understand everything about being a parent before you became one? Did you know how your child would get sick at the most inconvenient time and you would have to go to urgent care in the middle of the night? Did you know how that first argument between your child and another child would take place? Did you know what that feeling in the pit of your stomach would be like when you had to stand up for your child when they are being treated unfairly? Did you really understand the joys, the excitement, and the love? Did you really completely understand the sorrows, the fears, and the worry?

No, we can’t know these things by simply hearing about them from others. We can’t know what it’s like to be a parent, to be an employee, to be a husband or wife... until we actually become one and experience for ourselves what it means. So it was for the Disciples as they hear about what will happen with their risen Lord and Savior Jesus. I mean, they just got Him back from the dead. And now, is it already about time to let Him go again? It doesn’t seem right.

Parents, mothers... and fathers... we have done some adjustment and made today “Confirmation Sunday”. For you parents, friends and family who see these confirmands about to receive Holy Communion for the first time.... Looking all grown up.... confessing the faith that you as parents and sponsors promised to uphold and teach these boys and girls... it almost seems impossible, doesn’t it. Weren’t you changing their diapers just what seems like yesterday? They grow up so fast.

And now, new confirmands, in what has been your entire lifetime but to your parents seems like such a short time, you will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. And, for the first time you will be called a communicant member of Christ Lutheran Church. You will know what it means to be, I

guess what we could call, a full member of this church. Now by virtue of your baptism, you were already a member of God's holy church. But now, today, you become a communicant member of this church. And I hope and pray you will take advantage of that.

Being a member here means this becomes your home... we are your family. Do not forsake your family. When your family gathers, come and gather with it. Your family wants you here and your family needs you here. We become a body of Christ that works together in this kingdom for the sake of furthering the kingdom and strengthening our faith together. Being a part from this community does nothing to strengthen us or strengthen your faith.

Your faith will be strengthened here, at this altar, because the Lord's Supper is our spiritual fuel for life. This is what you need and here is where you will get it. Don't reject it. Don't forsake it. It's priority number one. And if you make it priority number one, you will not regret it. Because God will give you strength to endure the troubles that life will throw at you. He will give you His peace that passes understanding. And though you may not know or understand how God will do such things, He will. We know this to be true.

And here's how we know it to be true. *He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.* Whether it be the fact that we don't know how something will turn out because we've never been there before, or if we are just simply confused about our current circumstances, God does not grow weary of loving you. He understands what we go through far better than we could ever comprehend. And though the Disciples who heard Jesus say to them, "*A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,*" had a hard time understanding how this could be (for they had no context of the up and coming Ascension), they would soon understand more.

But how do we know? Because we have His Word. And that is what we can always count on. It doesn't tell us everything. But we do know what it says is true. God never grows faint. God always understands. The school of experience will teach us a lot, but not everything. And though God's Word does not fill in all the blanks and answer all the questions we have about the world, our sorrows, and our life and times, God does give us all we need right here in His Word... and right there at that table.

I love having a God that does not faint or grow weary. I love having a God that has understanding of every confusing, mixed up thought I've had... every perplexing situation I've ever encountered. I love knowing that God's got it all figured out. We know that we will never have it all figured out. At times we will be more confused than the Disciples, even with more experience and understanding than the Disciples. But we still have our Lord who is Lord of all and will carry us through... high school, the next big change at work, the fear that is deep within us about the unknown. God, our creator, sustainer, Lord of all will grant you His everlasting love, peace and grace. Amen

The peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.