EPISTLE – 19 MAY 2024

Dear Thoughtful Saints of Columba,

The Scriptures say, in Psalm 138:8, New Revised Standard Version,

“The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;

your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.”

I recently officiated at a funeral service for a young woman. I was led to this verse of the Psalms. It is a statement of faith. It is also a statement of reality.

Friend, the LORD will fulfil their purpose for you. We trust that God directs our pathways. And at the end of life, the Lord’s purpose for us is being fulfilled. The Christian funeral liturgy contains these words: “Death is not the end, but with God, a new beginning.” We trust God will fulfil the purpose of our lives. Why? Because God’s love endures forever.

We do not abandon our agency. We make decisions for our lives. We have the God-given power to think, to plan, to execute, to integrate all the internal emotions, feelings, needs, desires that God has placed within us. But we make plans trusting that the LORD is fulfilling his purpose in our lives.

I’m not in the school of “If it happens it is God’s will.” No, this is known as “spiritual by-passing”, where we abandon our agency in a kind of fatalism. No. The LORD has granted us powers of agency, of choice, and decision. When we act, we do so conscious that the LORD is fulfilling this purpose for me.

Folks, there are currently some nasty bugs out there. Be safe. If necessary, mask up, protect yourself and others. Face masks are not harmful. For one hundred years, surgeons have used face masks without risk, to protect themselves and their patients.

And they continue to do so. Jenni and I have both had our annual flu shots in order to mitigate our risk. Be sensible. Be safe!

God bless you and those whom you love!

Rev Craig

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