

A WEEKLY DEVOTION



INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 19, 2021

Reading

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ —1 Peter 5:1-5

For Reflection

Our scripture reading today reminds us that we are all examples of the faith to somebody. Often times, we are not even aware that other people are looking to us for guidance or inspiration. But, as a community that believes and affirms that we are the hands and feet of Jesus in this world, we understand that our lives act as a witness to the glory, grace, and love of God. And so it makes sense that we each play a role in passing on the faith.

We often speak of the “great cloud of witnesses” of our faith, and by that we mean every other person who shares this faith with us, from Abraham to Paul to the youngest members of our congregation. We all contribute to this body of faith. Who has inspired your faith life, and how did their example of faith change and shape your own? How does it make you feel to know that someone is looking at you as an example of Christian faith? What are some ways that you can help bolster the next generation of the body of Christ?

Prayer

Lord God, you place people in our lives both as a source of comfort and as a source of wisdom. Through our relationships with one another, we begin to understand each other's stories and experiences and, in so doing, walk a little closer to you. Bless this community as we continue to walk the path of faith, and bless each of us as we continue to grow in the faith. Amen.