

A WEEKLY DEVOTION



INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 26, 2021

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

For Reflection

The word benediction is derived from two root words in Latin: *bene*, “well”, and *dictio*, “speaking”. In the faith, we formally employ a benediction at the end of the service as a way to both bless the congregation and to send them out into the world with this final reminder of God’s faithfulness and love. Often times, the benediction functions as a “mini-sermon”, reminding us both of God’s love and our call to go and do likewise. Today’s scripture reading is a beautiful benediction that manages to pack the peace of God, the resurrection good news, a reminder of our relationship to God, the eternal nature of God’s promises, and a comprehensive reminder of our duty of discipleship into one sentence. It’s impressive.

While we don’t go out into the world offering benedictions to everyone we meet, we do have a chance to “speak wellness” into their lives by the words we use. Language is powerful. It can build up. It can tear down. It can bring new life or death. We have a choice of how to employ it every time we engage with another person. How have you experienced language in your life that was both life-giving and life-taking? How might you change the way you use the spoken or signed word if you thought of each sentence as a form of this “well-speaking” or benediction?

Prayer

Holy God, who spoke the world into being with a word, bless our conversation with one another and use our words to further your kingdom. Help us to speak words of love and wellness into the lives of everyone we know as a witness to your love for the world. Amen.