

One Day At A Time

To begin with, I want to share a prayer from former Seminary Pastor, Robert Brusich:

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people: that rightly observing this holy season, we may learn to know you more fully, serve you with a more perfect will, and come to experience your presence in every moment of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Here we are on Ash Wednesday as we begin the Lenten Season.

Each time we wake up, we have a new morning to start all over again.

Ash Wednesday is a new start as we are reminded on this day in the church of our own mortality. As it is said on this day, "From dust we have come and to dust we will return."

But thankfully, that is not the whole story. God created us in the beginning, but the end of our lives is a new beginning. When we say to dust we will return—that is not all we have to say.

In the process of death, we return to our creator and we continue to be with God who never lets death have the final word.

Lots of people seem to live in the past. Some think if only we could go back when we were young or our kids were young. We may have lots of good memories to carry with us. And there are some things that we might have done differently if we could do them over again but we also learned from mistakes we have made.

The past is important to us. As God's people, we have all those ancestors who have gone on ahead of us. We have many ancestors in the faith to be thankful for. Hopefully, we never forget them.

Page 2

We know some things today including discoveries in science and medicine which our ancestors did not have yet.

For example, one of my dad's sisters died at age 23 of tuberculosis. They didn't have the treatment back then. We could go on and on with things like that which we have thankfully found treatment for.

Back then, there wasn't the same information about how many things we can do to care for the creation we live in. As we take that seriously, we give God thanks for using us to make changes necessary.

The past is an important foundation for who we are today.

On the other hand, at times, we may tend to live in the future. Thinking only about what is coming next.

We look ahead for spring time and summer or the next season whichever one is coming next.

Right now, we look ahead to getting the coronavirus under control.

And there are things we need to do in order to have a future.

But we can't really live in the future. We don't know all that the future holds. And yet what we do have is the promise of God that God will continue to make all things new.

And some day we will join those loved ones who have gone on ahead of us into the future.

But for now we are called to live each day to the fullest.

In Psalm 118:24, we read, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice in it."

Page 3

It's a reminder that today is one of the days the Lord has made for us, let us live it to the fullest. Let us not carry any regrets we might have from the past and let us not let our worries for the future control our lives,

Let us enjoy this day, every breath we are given.

I know how good it feels to have one of my small grandkids running to me and jumping in my arms and saying Papa and it makes my day.

Let us stop and think on this Ash Wednesday, as we begin the season of Lent, that even though Ash Wednesday calls our attention to an event that happened in the past which gave us a future, yet, tonight, let us stop and relax and remember that YOU are special to God right now, right as we are in God's presence, right now.

This Ash Wednesday is a day the Lord has made, let us rejoice in its' meaning. You are marked with a cross on your forehead forever.

If you are ever wondering who you are. Here is your answer: YOU ARE GOD'S CHILD FOREVER.

That song from a long time ago, called One Day At A Time, had some words that remind us to live one day at a time. Here are some of the words:

by Lynda Randle

One day at a time, sweet Jesus
That's all I'm asking of You

Just give me the strength to do everyday
What I have to do

Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus
And tomorrow may never be mine

God help me today
Show me the way
One day at a time

On Ash Wednesday, we are called to repent which means turning around. We are called to once again turn toward God, to let go of the past and to look forward to the future, but in the meantime, to see each day as a gift from our creator.

May God help us to experience God's presence in every moment of our lives.