

Easter 3C 2010
John 21:1-19
Sermon for Advent LC
April 18th, 2010

“Meeting Jesus in Lake Ann...and your Life”

Dear sisters and brothers, grace to you and peace from God the Father and our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

It's been two weeks now since we gathered in this place and together proclaimed with loud, even excited voices that Jesus the Christ is risen. That Easter Sunday was marvelous wasn't it- I mean everything was so great- from a passionate worship filled with wonderful music and hymns, good news proclaimed of Jesus' resurrection, the taste of the bread and the wine, an amazing breakfast and the time you spent with your loved ones somewhere I'm sure. Easter was awesome...two weeks ago...but friends that promise, that day, that excitement still demands to be felt and experienced and proclaimed- save from the good breakfast- but I hear fellowship had some food! You see...the thing about our belief is that we proclaim every day that Jesus is Risen- not just on Easter, not just during the Easter season as we did today a bit ago- but everyday- Jesus did not stay dead- and furthermore Jesus is here- in this place, and in your life- do you believe that? Do you get that? Because here's what I think if I can be honest a bit- we go through Easter morning, and we might even be excited about Jesus that day, feeling pretty good about all that he is for us- he is risen we say...and then the week begins, then the normalcy of life comes in...we go back to what we always have done and the power of that Holy Week- that story and movement from life to death and back to life leaves us and we almost forget it. Sure Sunday comes around and we might find hope again...but then Monday happens and we don't feel Jesus anymore...we might even forget him- or at least that's what others might say about us as we don't do anything to lift him up in our daily life. So wonder with me... where is Jesus for you...everyday...where is Jesus in your life?

I imagine the disciples and all the early followers of Jesus similarly went back to normal with their life after that resurrection day and the visits that Jesus made right after. Our Gospel for today from John highlights that a bit. Our reading today picks up exactly where last weeks ended- Jesus had just appeared to his disciples, had the encounter with Thomas and now we arrive at today's scene. Notice with me the simple fact of what is going on. John tells us that those there were fishing- this thing that they did so naturally- they were fishermen and so they fished. All night long they fished and caught nothing. But morning came and they noticed Jesus standing on the shore- and after a bit of fishing advice they fill their nets and the disciples know once again this is their lord. Simon Peter was so excited that he jumped out of the boat- after putting his clothes on- hmm- and ran to his Lord. And they proceeded to have breakfast with the one they loved. Every time I read this Gospel story I am struck by just how normal it is- outside of the nets flowing over with fish- the story is normal- these men were doing what they knew- no longer locked in a room scared for their lives, but rather back to what they did- and then Jesus shows up in their ordinary, in their element, in their world and in their lives. Do you see that friends, Jesus comes to them in the midst of their normal, ordinary life and they recognize him and then he commissions Peter with the instruction to tend and feed his sheep as a way of following him. He

comes in the ordinary yet calls them to an extraordinary way of life– one of love, service, work and purpose.

So let's come back to that earlier question– where is Jesus for you, in your ordinary world? Think hard with me for a minute about that question. A lot of times it would be easy to say he's nowhere and sometimes we would probably be okay with that– but we know that's not true right? Jesus comes to us in our very life through people, through opportunities and through reality– but where? Where sisters and brothers do you see Jesus? Where does Jesus meet you in Lake Ann and the community you are part of? That's a question...so let's work to answer it a bit– Here's what I want you to do– look at the person next to you– and if it's your spouse look the other way and see if someone else is there– take two minutes– not even– and come up with an answer to that question...where do you meet Jesus on a daily basis? Where have you felt Jesus meeting you, calling you, coming to you? I know this is scary, to talk to one another– but friends you've heard me say it a million times– you have to be able to share your faith story in order for the church to do what it needs– to share your light– and this is a safe place, good people...people that share a faith with you...so please humor me...a bit– talk...where do you meet Jesus...where does Jesus meet you? SMALL GROUP... Okay, let's hear it....share....

Great, great stuff– thank you. Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed Alleluia– and now you are the ones that need to lift that promise up in your ordinary life. I am sick and tired of hearing from people outside the church how the church, large church– not necessarily Advent is irrelevant for the world at large. I know that is not true and I believe the relevance comes in the normalcy of life– and I feel God leading you, leading us, leading this church to be that thing which brings Christ to life– so won't you join Peter, won't you join the disciples in following Jesus by living out your identity. Here's the deal– Jesus died for you...Jesus rose for you...and now Jesus comes to you and calls you to follow and to be his hands and feet– where is that for you? Think about it...pray about it...and respond to it! If you won't who will?

God loves you and so do I. Amen.