

This past week started with that horrible news; the young girl killed at a ski resort. Several families from our school were good friends with the young girl and their kids were distraught over this. I was asked to speak with them. We met, about a dozen of us, and they talked about what they were feeling, sadness and fear. The question arose about whether this was God's plan. And one young man said that this was a one in a million freak accident, and I saw some nodding from the others. We talked about it more; that God did not cause this. Yet bad things will happen. I did ask "what do we think God wants us to do?". One child responded that we need to show love to her family. My heart swelled. These kids got it. We shared how we could all support one another in this time; and help each other out.

Death is a reality. Death in many ways is our reality. Physical death by accidents, disease, wrong intentions, disasters. We have heard of those who died in Myanmar from the earthquakes. Here in our country; tornados have taken lives. Children killed in the violence in Gaza and Lebanon; there is no shortage.

Death too as people struggle with addictions, depression, poverty and homelessness. Death because of choices to hurt others, to steal and demean others. People watching their retirement funds evaporate. Death as people watch relationships disintegrate; some as they see people's accomplishments removed because of their skin color, gender or other descriptions.

These deaths can shut us down; cause to retreat from life.

Jesus confronts the reality of death. He confronts those who knew him and loved him, yet did not grasp him. He confronts death, and as we know, will defeat the power of death. He gives us the power to defeat the power of death.

Jesus offers us the very love of God through his own heart.

Jesus offered his love even as he died on a cross because of human sinfulness.

Jesus offers the very love of God so that we can always find life, find hope.

The resurrection is the answer to the power of Death. It is love.

It is the trust that we who remain will continue on in love.

It is the call to trust and bring love into this world, into our lives, into those moments when people, families, parents, children despair...and offer them hope.

It is the grace that even when we are caught up in our own sorrow, our addictions, our own sinfulness; that God remains with us, calling us out and forward; to engage in life.

Our bringing love into a death does not have to be extravagant...

It can and is as simple as a smile to someone; a moment of treating others with dignity and kindness; it can be patience with them, listening to them; a simple card in the mail; a small bouquet of flowers.

It can be the words "I am sorry, please forgive me."

It can be the words, "What do you need from me?"

It can be maintaining a sense of hope in the midst of those who wish to dismiss us.

Part of our history with the martyrs is that they would challenge their killers simply by singing hymns as they were being led to the slaughter.

Confounding them with their joy; an act of defiance to the evil being perpetrated upon them.

We can learn from them.

Where death seems to reign, we bring God's love ever more.

Eucharist is God's love being given out to us, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit. We say Amen to this love.

We receive this Love and share this love; this strength, so as to go into this world and confront the power of death; and in Christ's name win.

It is not always easy; and it can seem overwhelming, futile. Yet...Jesus never gave up on his friends. God never gives up on us.

Love is greater than death.