



**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (B)**  
**July 1, 2018**  
*The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato*

+May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O God, our Strength and Redeemer. Amen.

On Tuesday of this past week, I was with youth from throughout the Diocese at Cran-Hill Ranch. During my time there, we celebrated Eucharist outside. The theme of the day was ‘broken community’, and the readings for the Eucharist helped to point in that direction. During the homily, I asked the youth and the counselors if they could name aspects of broken community in the world in which we live.

The campers named all kinds of things such as gun violence and bullying. Our dialogue led us to consider the separation of children from their parents at our borders as an example of broken community.

We discussed what Jesus might say and do. We discussed what they might do as well. It gives me pause to realize that our children are growing up in a world the likes of which most of us have never known.

In today’s first reading, David finds himself in a world he had not known. We find David lamenting the deaths of Saul, his predecessor, his mentor, and the one he calls “the anointed”. He laments the death of Jonathan, his beloved friend. The language of David’s lamentation is powerful.

A commentator on this reading observed: “No longer does David live in the shadow of another of the LORD’s anointed ones... His story henceforth becomes much more complex. He will have victories and will also make many mistakes. In this war story, gone are the days of the righteous boy who would be king. David will now become king and face several difficult decisions that have precarious effects for both his family and the nation of Israel.” (David G. Garber at [http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=3682](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3682)) David would experience aspects of community and also broken community in ways like never before.

The deaths of Saul and Jonathan symbolized the end of an era and heralded a new era for David and the nation of Israel. Centuries before the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, David’s reign changed the landscape of the Jewish people.

The reign of Jesus in our lives has the potential to change the landscape of our lives if we let it. The reign of Jesus can change us if we make it our own and allow it to form and shape our faith and our actions as Christians.

Last week and at the last minute, I think I heard the Holy Spirit telling me and telling us to do something positive and to take action for displaced children in Michigan. I put together simple envelopes marked “Children” as a way of trying to do something positive to help immigrant children housed here in Michigan. Today, we continue to collect our monetary gifts so that others, so that children might have life, and there are envelopes at the tables of both entrances to the Church and at the Welcome Desk in the Parish House.

As Christians committed to love others and to walk in ways of integrity, justice and truth, we are called to action when we see injustice around us. Jesus saw injustice in the world and acted to reform it. He gave his life for that cause. We continue to be inspired by his sacrifice, his passion for justice and healing, his love of the ‘other’ and his love for us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The love of Jesus can transform us and can heal us. Today's Gospel is a powerful indication of the healing love of Jesus. Two back-to-back miracles of healing are examples of the healing power of love.

I admit that there are parts of my life which need the healing power of Jesus. Are there parts of your life which need the healing power of Jesus? Are there parts of the lives of loved ones, friends and our nation which need the healing power of Jesus?

I believe is that the answer to those questions is "yes". We all need the healing power of Jesus. So, how do we find it? How can we embrace it? How can we make it our own, so that we can go forth to help heal the world so much in need?

I believe that we are here today because we believe that that healing is possible. We are here today because deep down inside us, we know we need God's love in our lives. That love, especially experienced in the life of Jesus through the power of the Spirit can be experienced here at St. Mark's.

St. Mark's has been about being a healing and loving presence for over 181 years. The ministry here has provided shelter and spiritual growth for generations of believers.

St. Mark's exists as God's hands and heart, in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. God's mission is our mission.

Here, God's love exists through the Word of God we proclaim and embrace. God's love exists through the Body and Blood of Jesus celebrated every week throughout the year. When we received the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are united with him, and the grace of the Sacrament enables us to be one with Jesus, the lover of our souls and the healer of our ills.

God's love exists in the breakfast served fifty-two weeks a year in our Breakfast Cafe. God's love exists in our Healing Racism Ministry, in our Outreach Ministry, in all our ministries and in the many opportunities for service here and elsewhere. God's love exists in us. When we work to share that love with others, the healing power of Jesus is at work in the world.

In and through that love, we can be healed and made whole as disciples of Jesus. We can be transformed as God's own, God's beloved, as we are loved into life by a generous and loving God, Jesus, the love of God incarnate in the world, redeemed the world and provides a pathway to life. When we can embrace that love through the Spirit of God, we *are* formed into the beloved community of Jesus.

Beloved of God, let us invite God's love into our lives. Let us pray for the healing of those things which keep us from being all we are called to be as sons and daughters of the living God. Amen.