



WONDER IN ALL

Bread + Water + Wonder

*a reflection by
Julie Simonton*

In this inaugural reflection for the 2019 annual giving season, our first Gospel reading offers no soft entry. Indeed, Luke's writing here is one of the harshest in scripture for many readers – saturated in divine admonition, indictment, and retribution. Simultaneously for others, though, the scripture offers an embracing reassurance of hope, justice, and God's promise of holy comfort.

Clearly defined worlds are established in the scripture, and regardless of where the reader finds herself in these worlds, Jesus does not consign any of his story to vague generalities. He is looking directly into our eyes to name what he sees. For many of us, he is looking directly into our eyes to name what we *don't* see.

As much as this is a story of reproach for many, it is also a story to open our eyes. During this time of considering our financial pledge to the church, begin it not only with an intentional pursuit to see across the chasms that divide us, but to see that chasms are there to begin with. Then take the next step to *do* something about it by committing your work, your wisdom, and your wealth to journey across the chasms in the world and build God's Kingdom.

In the scripture, we first read how Lazarus is desperate for some bread to drop from the rich man's table to save his mortal life. Then we read how the rich man is desperate for some water to drop from God's table to save his eternal life.

Come to church. Come to worship at God's holy table knowing that God's Kingdom is desperate for you to take the water of your baptism and the bread of Jesus Christ back out into the world to see with the sight of God. After you come to the table, go out into the world to see the wonder in all God's works. Then in your inquiring and discerning heart, find the courage to persevere in your journey across the chasms that divide you from the wonder in all God's works.

See the wonder! Then do the wondrous work God calls you to do.

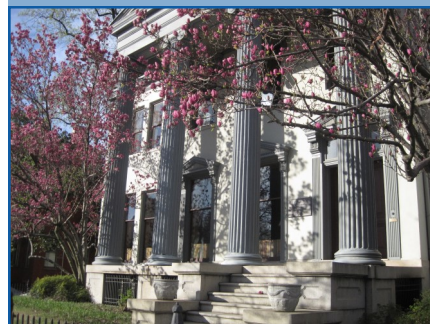


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September 29, 2019

Proper 21

Luke 16:19-31



Mayo Memorial Church House
The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

Reflection Questions

1. What kind of dinner do you imagine Jesus might have actually attended to prompt him telling the parable?
2. In what individuated worlds within the expanse of God's Kingdom do you live?
3. What chasms divide you from the faithful stewardship of seeing those who are in closets proximity to you?
4. How can we use the gift of godly sight to do the work God calls us to do?

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