

In Nomine Jesu

A CHILD TRAINED UP IN THE WAY THAT HE SHOULD GO

Our sermon for this day in which the Church remembers the Faith God gave to Kenneth Carroll Allred is taken from the Scripture readings chosen for this day. Hear again the Word of the Lord:

*[From] the steadfast love of YHWH we are not cut off,
for they do not end, His compassions;
their beginnings are in the morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.¹*

Kathy, David, Ken and Zaida, Brenda and Harrott, Sheila, family and friends of Ken Allred:

Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

God, this morning, called and gathered us together to remember the God's faithfulness that He worked in, for, and through our dear brother, Ken. This work God began in his life through a faithful woman. Through his mother, Ken learned not only to sing of God's Amazing Grace, but to trust in the Lord. She had begun the training the Lord determined for him to walk in the Way of life in which He should go. Through the seed of the Word sown in him at his mother's knees, the Holy Spirit held onto him even when it seemed he was not near to Him. Through his life, the Lord never cut off from him His mercies and lovingkindness.

Then, as the end of his mortal life neared, God continued His good work in Ken through another faithful woman. Through His wife Kathy, Ken heard the answers to his lingering questions of the Faith. She answered them through recitation of God's Word. In that good work, God

¹ *Lamentations 3:22-23*

showered His great faithfulness upon our sainted brother in his final days, weeks, and months of mortal life through the Word read into his ears. Certainly, that was also done by this congregation's pastors and vicar. Even so, it was most fully accomplished through the means of his beloved wife, Kathy, as she read the treasured teachings of the Scriptures to him in their home.

From God's work through His Word in Holy Baptism through God's work in Holy Absolution and the Sacrament of the Altar, Ken was given all he needed to be fully sainted on July 15 this year. On account of God's Faith and faithfulness to and through His Word, Ken even now dwells in God's Presence. There he, with all the heavenly host even now awaits the Last Day.

On that coming great and awful day, the living soul of Saint Ken Allred will be given by God a new, spiritual body. God will raise Him to blessed eternal life from the ashes to which his remains have returned.

We have a visual reminder of that before us today. Ken's ashes stand next to the baptismal font. In waters such as those God named him his child. He gave him the right to call him, Abba, Father. The white pall serves to help us remember that Ken, in God's baptismal washing of regeneration and renewal was declared clean, named with God's family name, and prepared to receive the white robe God reserves for the saints when their last hours arrive.

That image stands to remind us whom God assembled here this day that those whom God calls by His steadfast love into His compassions are able to call upon Him in times of joy and in times of trial and sorrow.

Because God has given His baptized and believing children a portion with Him in the eternal heavenly dwellings, we remain ever free to put our hope in Him.

That we may weep as we hold onto God's Word in the Faith is not on behalf of those saints, such as Mr. Allred, who have entered heaven's bliss. Rather, we may cry for ourselves and our very real earthly losses. Even so, we do not grieve as those who have no hope, for our hope is in the Lord Who has, in His Body, conquered sin, death, and hell. Jesus died to conquer sin – for all people – that they would believe in Him and be saved from the eternal punishment everyone deserves. In His resurrected Body, Jesus opened the gates of heaven to all who believe in Him. Jesus rose from the dead to present those who cling to Him in the Faith as eternally right with the Father.

Since God became one with man in the flesh of Jesus, Son of Mary, through the miracle of His immaculate conception, those who become one with God through the flesh of Jesus, Son of God are united with Him. We have truly died to sin and risen to new life in Him. That means that, as God has given His Son to be heir of all good, then those who are bound to Him in the Spirit of His Son are also heirs – that is, those who are to receive all the benefits of the eternal kingdom of the Living God.

Dear ones who are in Christ, and those who are called to be one with us in Him, Ken desired that you know this truth: Jesus was sent by the Father into this fallen, sorrow-filled world to grant you His Faith. He did so that you, when your last hour comes, might not perish eternally, but have eternal life in Him. The Word specifically chosen by Ken, and Kathy, for

you to hear today declares:

For thus God sacrificially loved the fallen world, that the Son, the only-begotten One, He gave, that each one continually believing in Him may not have been destroyed but may have continue to have life eternal.²

That is a literal translation of the verse which rolls off the tongue of so many Christians. Yet, in the inspired Word of God, those words do not stand alone. It is actually coupled with a greater expression of God's love for sinners than most people who hold to John 3:16 as the, "Gospel in a nutshell," might so readily recite. That is the deeper promise revealed to those who have been given and return to the gift of the Faith – even if they may have departed from it for many years. It is declared now in these words of Jesus – Son of God and Son of Mary:

For God sent not the Son into the fallen world that He might have judged the fallen world, but that He might have saved the fallen world through Him.³

That same Word of salvation from judgment the Spirit used in life events throughout the years of marriage he shared with Kathy to move Kenneth in his last months to declare to those who would ask the strong confession of Christ-crucified for the forgiveness of all his sins. This is proclaimed today in the hope that you might also regularly return to receive God's gifts in His Services to His people, His congregations. These He sets forth in the houses, church buildings, that continue to hold fast to His revealed Word.

Know this, that as the months of his mortal life drew to a close, Ken

² John 3:16.

³ John 3:17.

received the touch of his Savior in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. God had reunited him to His Church on earth as He prepared him to enter the Church in the heavens. Ken continued to be prepared in that heavenly meal to enter into the unending feast of Jesus' eternal banquet. There he rests until we shall see him again. All of this and more is his because Ken truly was a child trained up in the way he should go. God is faithful.

The peace which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus

Trinity VII, Thursday

Funeral Service in memory of the Faith God gave to Kenneth Carroll Allred

Psalm 23; Lamentations 3:22-24; Galatians 4:1-7; John 3:16-21

August 3, 2017

Pastor Michael A. Morehouse

Soli Deo Gloria