Grace Lutheran Community, 14 May 2023: Sixth Sunday of Easter

The sermon text for today is based on the text Acts Chapter 17 verses 22 to 31

What beautiful readings we have this Sunday knowing that God cares so much for us that Jesus reminds us that, "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son Jesus so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. God loves us so much He sent Jesus to rescue us, not to condemn us but to give us eternal life. To offer us freedom from our sin through the gift of forgiveness and in Jesus He saves us from sin, death and the power of the devil.

Jesus loves us so much that He will not leave us as orphans. He will not abandon us ever. But rather He will be with us always no matter where we find ourselves, today, tomorrow or in the future.

Jesus says, 'I will ask the Father and He will give you an advocate,' God loves us so much that in Jesus we are never

abandoned rather we are filled with the very Spirit of God and by the power of God's spirit in us we are sent out into the world to share by every action and word the loves of Jesus with others. We serve our Lord by serving others.

When we fail others, when we fail God we can come to Him because He loved us first. We can repent, turning away from our sins and seeking forgiveness in the name of Jesus. We are set free in Him and through repentance our hearts change. Then as we face the world each day, the world that often seems to have less believers than unbelievers and the world that seems to be harder and harder to understand we know the truth. The spirit of truth Jesus lives in us. It is by the power of God in us that we can go into the world to meet people where they are at as Jesus meets them in us. Then like Paul we can speak the truth of Gods love whenever and wherever we find Jesus calling us to be.

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

It is in this Jesus that we have life. It is in this Jesus we need not fear the day of judgement for He is our salvation, our hope, our joy and our peace.

God loves the world, and Saint Paul reminds us that God all people are the people God has created, but so many need to hear about God's love so they too may know the one whom the Father has sent Jesus and in Him they too may know of forgiveness, love and peace, and in Him the man Jesus will come to eternal life by faith. Amen.