

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 29, 2024

LECTIONARY 26

Sharing in Holy Work

In the late first century, when the author of Mark was writing the story of Jesus for the new Galilean Christian church, other Christian churches were forming in neighboring regions too, with other teachers sharing and professing the wonders of Christ Jesus. And, well, like churches of all times, each one did things a little differently. They told the stories in their own unique styles. They emulated the works of Jesus in their healings, teachings, and evangelism in varied ways. And some in the church in Galilee started to think, “Hey! Those other Christians are doing it wrong!” So the author of Mark made sure to include this account about Jesus and the first apostles.

In our world today, there are so many kinds of Christians professing and teaching in various ways. So who is right when Christians around the world all see Jesus and his ministry a little differently? Many of these churches have their own supporting documents: Lutherans have the works of Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon. Methodists and other churches with English heritage have the work of John Wesley. From historical theologians like Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Julian of Norwich to modern theologians like James Cone and Rosemary Radford Ruether, theologians and writers about Jesus have inspired our faith and how we are to live in and share the love of God through Jesus Christ across time and space.

As Jesus shares with the disciples, any work that shares love, grace, mercy, and justice in his name is holy. Many of our faith communities partner with people of other traditions to share Jesus’ love through holy work. What holy work are others in your community doing? What ecumenical partnerships do you share in? Is there a Jesus movement truly inspiring you right now, even if it’s not through your own church? If so, thanks be to God!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.