

I would like to once again thank the Liturgy Committee for inviting me to co-preside once again along with Becky.

In the name of our creator, redeemer, and sanctifier.

Amen.

So here we are in today's gospel where we have James and John acting out of self purpose, thinking of God's kingdom in terms of power and status.

We find ourselves here today experiencing the same thing...a little bit of history repeating itself maybe?

But what does Jesus do here? He doesn't throw suffering at them...he invites them to share his cup while reminding us that he did not come to be served but rather TO serve and give his life as a ransom for us all.

Today we hear daily about the derisive state of affairs in our society. I know that I myself am getting numb to it all. I am starting to believe this is the way it is now and we will never come together again as a nation caring about the greater good of all. I don't know about you, but it is beginning to affect me and the way that I interact with people. I have become more guarded.

So how do we as a community maintain our composure and strength through it all? We have all weathered our own personal storms before and as a nation have been through many trying times.

We gather weekly as a community of faith brought together by a shared love of Jesus' message and we all know that it is more than words, it is **action** because these words are living and active.

I recently had the opportunity to see the musical Hamilton. In the story we reminded that immigrants, our ancestors, built our country.

This story helped remind me that during the course of history, we've had moments of doubt and insecurity, although they do not seem brief while you are experiencing them.

Ask yourself, what is a common thread that has kept us all believing and moving forward, could it be our faith in Jesus? I believe so. So many members of this community live to serve others and isn't this a sign of Jesus's gift to us? Isn't this what he wanted us to do? YES!, yes it is!

“Let us come boldly, without any doubt or fear, trusting in this sacrifice”

Whenever I hear the word immigrant, I always close my eyes and try and imagine what both of my grandfathers experienced while they were crossing the Atlantic in search of a better life in the early 1900's. What was going through their minds? Am I doing the right thing? Should I have stayed put? And probably all the while never admitting to themselves how scared they were. These two men happened to be Roman Catholic, so I like to believe that it was the same faith that we share here today that helped them weather their own storm and help them journey ahead. It is my greatest hope that others will see how they and others before and after them help build everything we have here today. They and us are the fabric of our country and without them, we would not be the nation we are today. Once again, we should all take note from today's gospel and be reminded that Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve.

You all here do this each and every day by living your lives authentically and carrying out this message through

your own interactions. This community and its shared love of the message is another way that I am empowered each day to forge ahead.

When we all join hands later today and recite our Lord's prayer, if you so choose, look around the circle as we speak, this circle represents our modern day continuation of Jesus' message through every one of you here.

This, for me, is a very powerful part of our service for this community provides me with the strength to face my week ahead, to weather my own storm. I know that you are all here with me.

During the course of my contemplating this week's homily, I kept reminding myself not to make my message all gloom and doom, we are all feeling enough of this. So I ask you to take the power of this circle and let it sustain you all week, for I carry you all in my own heart and I know this feeling is more than words, it is the power of Jesus' message, it's a living and active message, and it has the power to sustain us.

Good news.

