

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 25, 2021

DAY OF THANKSGIVING (USA)

Enough for All to Eat

“Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?” (Matthew 6:27) This question from Jesus may feel a little cold to those who do not actually know what they will eat or drink or wear, despite assurances that God knows we need all these things. If God knows, then why are so many hungry and thirsty and unsheltered?

As the inequality and injustice of our society grow, it can feel superficial and tone-deaf to reassure folks without enough to eat that they ought not worry and that they can trust in God’s care. This teaching may feel especially smug if it comes from someone in a cozy home with an overflowing table of Thanksgiving turkey and pie.

But Jesus follows this statement about worry in today’s gospel by instructing his followers to strive for God’s kingdom, God’s righteousness, and God’s justice. We are called to look beyond our own fears to the needs of our neighbors. Worrying is not enough to keep us safe and keep us fed. Recognizing our interconnectedness as part of the beloved community of the kingdom of God, however, will inspire and empower us to be the body of Christ in the world. As we share the sacrament of holy communion in worship, we embrace the call to ensure that all who hunger find enough to eat.

Jesus calls us to look out for each other. Instead of worrying, hoarding, and isolating ourselves, we can notice our own and others’ needs and gifts. When we all take care of each other, joining our hands in God’s work of caring for those who are in need, then we will enjoy the abundance of God’s provision for all people.

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