

Advent 2017

Week three

Thursday, December 21

Garments of Salvation

Prayers for candle-lighting

The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

[Light three candles]

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God.*

The true light, which enlightens everyone, is coming into the world.

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Interpretation

Sometimes we may get into the rut of thinking of faithfulness as a drab to-do list, but Isaiah invites us to see it quite differently. The prophet describes faithfulness as a shining, colorful garment that we are blessed to be able to put on each day.

- We put on all of this beauty when we rise to the call of the small acts of care that make up our days: choosing to allow ourselves to be interrupted by a coworker or student who needs a listening ear; taking the time to rinse out containers for recycling; shopping for groceries even after a long day of work; carefully proofreading a report or filling the gas tank rather than leaving it for someone else to do; sharing generously with a charity we care about.
- These are the garments of salvation, because behind them lie all of the important relationships of our lives: spouses, children, neighbors, co-workers, clients, students, customers, extended family....
- For Jesus, this garment of relationships even extended all the way to our enemies.

Reflection

Look at the list of things you expect to do today. What relationships are involved in those tasks? Will you do anything today that extends your care even to an enemy? When the day comes to an end, look back over it, and see where God clothed you with “garments of salvation.” Rejoice that you are a part of God’s work of care and reconciliation, that you are made beautiful by your acts of faithfulness.

