



Pastor Gwen's Message
2nd Sunday of Easter
"Ragman"
Sunday April 24, 2022

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

Christ has risen. . . . He is Risen Indeed!

Today we are going to share God's word by stepping a bit outside of the normal routine: Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, Gospel and then sermon.

Knowing how well you like stories and it has been a while since I have shared this one, I would like to read it to you this morning. It is one of my favorite stories and as I was studying this week for a Doubting Thomas sermon, my mind kept coming back to this story. Reading commentaries while thinking about other resurrections, as well as how the disciples must have been elated and delated over and over again by what happened to Jesus, today seems like an appropriate time to share it as we are still celebrating Easter.

The story is called the Ragman. It was written by Rev Dr Walter Wangerin Jr. That may be a familiar name to you if you have, in the past, listened to Lutheran Vespers on Sunday mornings. Walter Wangerin was a master storyteller as well as an ELCA pastor. He has also served as a book reviewer, written 30 books and most recently served at what was one of our ELCA Colleges, Valpariso in Indiana. He died in August last year, but his stories live on in print and in the hearts of others. I met him in Hartford many years ago at a rally where we were blessed by his telling of one of his famous stories.

He has won several acclaims for his writing and is especially hailed as a writer and storyteller for children. All of his tales are very spiritual. The story we are going to hear today is called the Ragman. It is a new perspective on the Easter Story. This moving tale recounts the Passion of Christ. It comes to us in ways that perhaps may resonate more directly with us today.

And you know me, I always think that it is good to think about things in different ways so they stay fresh. There is even a u-tube video by 4 young people that depicts this story of the ragman. Although there is nothing quite like the telling of the Passion of Christ in the words from the Bible, I hope that this story will give you something to think about today. The story will be read with intermittent Bible references being shared.

The Ragman by the Rev. Dr. Walter Wangerin Jr.

https://www.csh.rit.edu/~ding/ragman_by_walter_wangerin_jr1.htm

What a story teller he is. I don't think I can add anything to that so I will just say

Christ has risen. He has risen indeed!

AMEN