



At a Distance – Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

The Wisdom Keepers

Scripture Reference: Psalm 90: 1-8

“Blessed One, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the Mountains were brought forth, or the land and the Earth were born, from age to age You are God. You turn us back to dust and say, “Go back, O Child of Earth”. For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night. You sweep us away like a dream, and we fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes and, in the evening, it is dry and withered. So, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Greetings Saints. I appreciate the opportunity to be with you, and to visit with you again. This month of November, as you know, starts off with All Saints Day first and then, All Souls Day. All Souls Day is the day of traditional remembrances for those who have died, those who have crossed into the Spirit World. But here at All Saints we use the entire month of November to remember our Ancestors, our Elders, our family members, friends, mentors and loved ones who have moved on. Our Indigenous Elders speak of “The Wisdom Keepers” ...our ancestors and elders who have taught us and showed us how to walk our Spirit Journey with courage, dignity and honor. And this morning we remember them, and we thank them for their journeys well walked, and their lives well lived.

Our Ojibwe, our Anishinabe Elders speak about it this way in their Traveling Song sung as the Crossing of a Loved One approaches:

“We understand who we are

We know where we come from.

We understand our destiny on Mother Earth,

We are Spirits walking a human journey.

Today, the Psalm says it another way...

You sweep us away like a dream, and we fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes and, in the evening, it is dry and withered. So, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Saints, our readings this morning are guidebooks on preparation for the “end times.” Are they talking about the Apocalyptic End Times...the final coming of the Son of Man...probably. But I find these reading today extremely useful on helping us focus on our own, personal “end times”. Our own “Day of Crossing” or as the Assiniboine Elders call it our “Traveling Day.”

Our Dominant Culture is typically “dead set about not talking about death.” Most don’t want to accept or acknowledge it. We seem to think that it is something unusual, unexpected or extraordinary when it occurs. Yet it is the most commonly occurring event in nature alongside birth. As our Ancestors have shown us this. They have shown us how the Circle of Life works. They have left us with their Legacy of Understanding, their Legacy of Truth, Caring, and, yes Wisdom.

In the Tree of Life, they are represented and symbolized by the fruit. Protecting and nurturing the next generation. Then when it is time, when they have ripened, they fall and the next generation...the new

seeds of life are spawned, and their work here is completed and they cross triumphant into the Spirit World to be met by their ancestors and ours and escorted on their path to meet Creator face to face.

Saints, we are the next generation of Wisdom Keepers. As the Psalm this morning says... ***So, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.*** So, what is your legacy? How will you be remembered? What have you taught, given, shared and sown. Have we taken what we have received, our talents, vocations, families and lives and built them up, raised them up, given them increased breadth and depth and light and life? Or buried our gift in the dirt afraid. Today, Saints I challenge us all to take a good long look at how we will be remembered, what is our legacy built so far. Do we like what we have built? If we do, keep going. If we don't like what we are building, today is a great day to start to renovate.

So, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

So today, Saints we honor our Wisdom Keepers. It's never too late to become one.

