



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

April 7, 2024

“Tell Me About the Gospel – What is the Good News? An Imaginary Sermon for Newcomers”

My dear friends,

As we gather here today, I am deeply humbled to begin to share with you *the heart of Christianity, the essence of our faith—the Gospel, the Good News.*

As we reflect on the recent Easter events—Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection—let us remember that these events are not merely historical happenings; *they are the very foundation of our Christian belief.* Through His death, Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sins. Through His resurrection, He conquered death, offering us the gift of eternal life.

At this point you may have more questions: "What is the Gospel?" "What is the Good News?" "What does it mean for me today?"

You're expecting a lot from me with those questions!

First, the Gospel. It is the story of God's boundless love for humanity, revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the proclamation of hope, forgiveness, and salvation offered to each and every one of us. The Gospel tells us that despite our flaws and failings – and separation from God, God has not abandoned us. Instead, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile us to Himself.

Secondly, one way to think of the “The Good News” is that through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and triumphant victory over death, we are offered forgiveness for our sins. It is through His sacrifice that we find redemption, being bought back from the grip of all our shortcomings and faithlessness. And it is through faith in Jesus Christ that we find salvation, eternal life in our restored relationship with God.

Finally, *“But what does this mean for us today?”* you ask. It means that no matter where we've been or what we've done, there is always hope. It means that our past mistakes do not define us, for in Christ, we are made new. It means that we are loved unconditionally and valued beyond measure by our Creator.

So let us embrace this Good News with open minds and hearts. Let us live newly in the light of forgiveness, redemption, and salvation that Christ offers us. And *as we journey together in our faith in the next weeks and months, let us delve deeper into the Gospel* through the study of Scripture, exploring its truths and timeless wisdom. For in the Gospel, we find the great, timeless story - the story of God's care, love, and grace for of His beloved children. May it be so. Amen.

- God's peace, Vance



Prayer Box: pray for healing for Elizabeth, Rich, Debbie, Fr. Andy, and Joe; pray for Kathy's, Joel's, and Michael's grieving families and friends; pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East; pray for those who seek God or a deeper understanding of God. *Lord, hear our prayers!*