

5th Sunday after Pentecost 2011

“Waiting for Godot”

It was voted the most significant English language play of the 20th century, which is ironic, since it was written in French. But it is a classic that many of us struggled with in college years ago; it is a classic that has been reproduced around the world in countless languages for over half a century since its premiere in Paris in 1953. *Waiting for Godot* tells the story of two characters sitting in front of a tree waiting for someone who never comes. The play has been interpreted politically, psychologically, philosophically and religiously. Many believe Godot, who doesn't ever arrive, is God, to which the author Samuel Beckett shrugged his shoulders and said, *“I don't think so.”* But it is a tragic story as the two men wait, and wait, and wait for that someone that never comes.

I couldn't help but think about the play this week as I worked with our lessons. We are surrounded in our daily lives by folks who wait for hope, for salvation, for redemption that never comes to them, because they are waiting for all the wrong things. You've seen it. Folks who wait and wait for their money to finally make them happy. There's never enough. It never arrives. Folks who wait and wait for their prestige and status to finally give them self-worth and that never arrives either. What were the words in that country western song, *“Looking for love in all the wrong places,”* waiting for all the wrong things in all the wrong places and missing the gifts that God so freely gives.

Beautiful Isaiah this morning declares God's presence and power in our world and in our lives. God says, *“I'm here and I'm it.”* And Paul takes that understanding and uses the wonderful image of adoption to declare God's love, care and presence in our lives. That image of a parent just being there for us. Filling us he says with hope.

That's why we confessional Lutherans have such a wonderful definition of the church. It is where the Gospel is preached; it is where the Sacraments are gracefully shared; it is where the people of God gather to worship and minister as the servant body of Christ. So you don't have to wait for those things that won't come. God is here in that absolution that forgave your sins, in this proclamation that reminds us of our Easter hope. God is here in this meal that we will share, at once filled with the sacrifice of Christ and again, the presence of Easter life. What a joy and blessing to know that presence and blessing of God, every day of our lives.