

May  
2014

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*For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.  
Through him [Jesus] then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God,  
that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.*

Hebrews 13:14-15

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It seems as though I arrived here in Highlands Ranch and was installed as your pastor only a short time ago, but my family and I will be celebrating my tenth anniversary here at the beginning of June. Although this may not seem like a long time to some of you, it is longer than I have served any other parish and, looking out over the span of my life, longer than I have ever lived in any one place ever before. The old adage, "Time flies when you are having fun." certainly applies. I thank God for you and for all the saints I have been privileged to serve at Holy Cross over this past decade and it is still my greatest joy to serve the Lord in your midst. Thank you for being a blessing to me and to my family.

As I pause to consider not only my time here, but my life in general, I could not help but think of the Bible verse above and others that picture our lives as a journey toward heaven, the New Jerusalem, our promised home. A man in the first church I served had lived in the same house for 87 years. He was raised there and after he was married, he and his wife purchased it from his parents, and then they raised their family there as well. He expected to live there until the Lord called him home. I admit that at the time I found this almost incomprehensible, but then he showed me the marks on the doorframe where he had measured his children as they grew up and the pictures and other treasured items that he and his wife had collected over a lifetime. Every nook and cranny of that old house, it seemed, had a story behind it. Then, I got it, but I'll never forget his comment that as much as he loved his home, he was looking forward to the one he would have in heaven: Jesus would be there and it would last forever. I was struck by the truth that whether we stay in one place for our entire lives or move every couple of years, as Christians we are all just passing through, seeking "the city that is to come."

In the meantime, my friends, what can we do but enjoy the ride and continue to receive God's blessings of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life that He offers us through Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord. Let us continually offer up our sacrifices of praise, "that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name."

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Skelton



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Hebrews 13:14

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross