

Living Lent | Friday, February 28

Father Mike Gumulauskas

Our Potter

Today's Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-12; 18-20

"This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me. 6 He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it."

Jeremiah 18:1-10 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

What a wonderful picture of our God. We are to picture right away the Potter being unattested at the wheel. We are to see the omnipotence, which is God's ability to do whatever is consistent with God's character, especially creation. We see His omnipresence, God's being present everywhere simultaneously, and we see His omniscience; God knows all things and changes His mind. Look at this Potter on the Wheel. He

has given you free will. Can you picture this free will on individual levels, pushing up against the Potter's hand, making the bowl swell and sometimes fold in on itself? All with the Potter keeping it within His own character, knowing how we would respond to His love. The process of shaping pottery is a perfect analogy of the work of Yahweh with His people. Often in life, we want to swell the clay in our God's hands to receive what we want. We are often left learning that what God wants is much different. While in Lent, we

are watching what Jesus is up to. His face is set on Jerusalem and the cross. Fold the clay one last time to open the floodgates to eternity. Jesus is the unattested King of the cosmos, and the Potter is pleased. Finally, Yahweh can change his mind if his people's decision warrants it. Often in life, we forget who our God is and what He did for us that faithful Good Friday. We can walk around doing what we want. Jesus has been given authority over the Cosmos. Are you living a life pleasing to Him? Have you served Him in a way that shows you are grateful for being created by His hand? Lent is a time of reflection and change. Changing to be more like our Savior, living in His newly created clay, with no boundaries on eternity if you submit to His love. May the God who formed you from the dust speak to you this Lent to become the bowl the Potter always wanted you to be.

Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ:

Father Mike Gumulauskas is the rector of St. Andrew's Church. St. Andrew's is a Historical church on Vernon Square in Darien, GA. Father Mike invites, "We talk a lot about Jesus around here. Please come check us out anytime."