

and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Mt 5:45). His promises also extend to creation, hence Jesus saying in our Gospel reading today, “Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these” (vv. 26, 28b-29).

God provides for all His creation, period. This is most comforting, and also reassures us that we cannot somehow merit God’s provision. He takes care of His creation because of His grace. And creation doesn’t sow or reap, or gather extras. The flowers of the field do not spin or toil to adorn themselves with the beauty they have. God simply provides without showing partiality.

So the lesson for us is to trust the Lord. Do not be afraid of losing that “which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven” (v. 30), that which is fleeting, earthly, and has no everlasting consequence. Fear God. Maintain a devout respect for He who condemns those who do not repent and believe in Him. You shall have no other gods. We should fear, love, and trust in Him above all things.

And know for certain that your fear, love, and trust is not in vain. God will provide for you even without your prayers as we pray in the petition of the Lord’s Prayer: “Give us this day our daily bread.” On top of the earthly things that God provides for all of creation, we also, specifically as Christians, have been given the spiritual things. God provides for all aspects of life. We see this perhaps most clearly in the Sacrament of the Altar, where we fearfully and wonderfully believe, teach, and confess that God provides for both body and soul. The bread and wine nourish our body. Christ’s body and blood nourish our soul.

God has made a promise that He will provide all that you need to support your body and life as we confess in the 1st article of the Creed. So stop worrying. Trust Jesus. He died and three days later rose again. If He has put even death under His feet, surely He has put all things in subjection to Him. And that means not one of you will be left wanting as we pray in Psalm 23:1. This doesn’t mean everything we want we will get. Even the birds of the air sometimes starve to death. Even the flowers of the field sometimes don’t get enough rainwater to sustain them, and wither and die. While God does provide for the things of this life, for the Christian, our hope is not in this life. It’s in the eternal life to come. So even if a severe famine were to sweep the land, and we found ourselves dying of starvation, it would not be because God failed to uphold His end of the promise. As Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Mt 5:6). Our hope is not in the earthly satisfactions, but in the heavenly bounty. We will be filled in fullness in heaven. So don’t despair over the things of this world, don’t worry about the temporary. Cling to the promises of the life without end; be comforted by the provisions of the eternal. You have Jesus Christ the crucified, living and reigning for you! Because Jesus lives, all who believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins will live and reign with Christ, world without end. Seek first His kingdom in Word and Sacrament, and all these things will be added to you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.