

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Houston Heights
Episcopal School Sunday 11/16/25
Homily 8:30 and 10:30 AM
Jamie Martin-Currie

In the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Today we are celebrating Episcopal School Sunday, which is why I was invited to deliver the homily.

The last line of today's Gospel, "By your endurance, you will gain your souls," got me wondering just what does it mean to endure and gain our souls.

The Message Bible translation of today's Gospel reads: "You'll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There's no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head! —is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that's what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry."

Does that mean if we endure in hopefulness, our souls are God's? Does it mean that by continuing to have faith, our souls actually will go to heaven?

There's a verse in Matthew's Gospel, "Every sin will be forgiven, except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit." There is no certainty about what blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is, but some people believe that blasphemy is the refusal to have hope. When we feel "there is no hope," we are saying that God is no longer in power, and we have lost our souls.

Martin Luther adopted a very hopeful posture when asked what to do when he thought the end was coming tomorrow. His advice? "Plant a tree." *Hold up the print.* This quote hangs on my office wall.

Back to that last line of the Gospel that Reverend Catie read, "By your endurance you will gain your soul." I keep wondering how exactly do we go about that.

Jesus never promised easy living. He didn't say that the temple will remain, that we will avoid death, or that pain goes away. I imagine that, as Jesus forecasted the

temple's destruction, the disciples may have wondered: How do we live today when we do not know tomorrow?

Like Martin Luther, I think that line in the Gospel may mean: Invest hopefully in the future! To me this is a reminder that Jesus promises God is with us to the end of the age, God is still in charge, and we can trust in God when we can no longer trust anything else.

What do we do when we don't know what tomorrow will bring? I think we try to figure out what God is up to in the world and to get on board with that project. In all the many and varied

positions I've held in the Episcopal Church world, overseeing St. Andrew's Episcopal School may be one of the most hopeful. Being part of the renovations to our campus has definitely been soul-growing.

Working alongside David Rennie, Tommy Whitt – the General Contractor, Matt Banker - the Project Manager, and everyone at O'Donnell Snider who cared deeply about our children and teachers in a myriad of ways, has fed my soul the last 8 months.

In our Montessori preschool, children discover their own potential in a prepared environment, guided by a teacher who sees them not just for who they are, but for who they might become.

Everyone who lives or works with children plants a tree and hopes it will thrive. This is why our 25th anniversary theme is blooming wonders! Every child is just that, a blooming wonder.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School is a place where children learn, grow, and thrive in body, mind, and soul. For 25 years, this school has endured, and that gives us all hope.

My prayer for you is that you let your hope in God fill your soul and embrace those who do the same. Amen.