

Day 6

Hospitality: Show Unusual Kindness

Scripture

- **Acts 28:1-2, 7**, The natives showed us unusual kindness.

“After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us round it... Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days.”

- **Psalm 46**, God is our refuge and strength.
- **Luke 14:12-24**, When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.

Meditation

After the traumas and conflicts of the storm at sea, the practical care offered by the islanders is experienced as an unusual kindness by those washed up on the shores. Such kindness demonstrates our common humanity. The Gospel teaches us that when we care for those in distress we are showing love to Christ himself (cf. Matthew 25:40). Furthermore, when we show loving kindness to the weak and dispossessed we are attuning our hearts to the heart of God in which the poor have a special place. Welcoming outsiders, whether they be people of other cultures or beliefs, immigrants or refugees, is both to love Christ himself, and to love as God loves. As Christians, we are called to step out in faith and reach out with God’s all-embracing love, even to those we find difficult to love.

Prayer: God of the orphan, the widow and the stranger, instill in our hearts a deep sense of hospitality. Open our eyes and hearts when you ask us to feed you, to clothe you and to visit you. May our churches participate in the ending of hunger, thirst and isolation and in overcoming barriers that prevent the welcome of all people. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus, who is present in the least of our sisters and brothers. Amen.

Prayer Intention: For an end to the divisions among Christians: that they work together in bringing about healing and promote reconciliation as signs of God’s reign... We pray to the Lord.

Questions:

- What is a time that you experienced hospitality in a meaningful way and how did it make you feel?
- Think about a time when you had to be hospitable that was difficult. In what ways has that changed how you welcome people? Where do you need to go the extra mile?
- Where have you recognized unusually kindness in your community?

Action: How might you show unusual kindness to someone in your community today?