Second Year Seminarian Nathaniel Brown's Journey

November 2018

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our LORD Jesus Christ! November has been very full and it is hard to think that the year is almost over. It has been a busy year for me and I'm sure it has for you also.

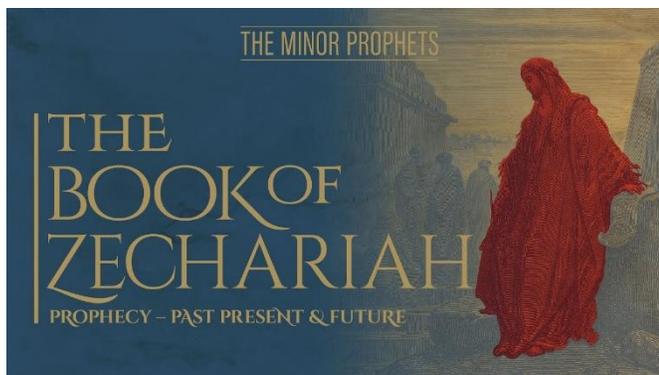November on campus has been interesting. We had the trees change color in late October, which is late for St. Louis. Within two weeks we had 6 inches of snow fall, most of which happened overnight. One class was cancelled so everyone could be safe getting to campus. The next day it was 50 degrees outside.

At Field Work, I have been teaching Sunday School. This past week we were talking about the book of Zechariah. Reading and preparing for this week, I realized that this is of the more Christ-centered books of the Minor Prophets. It was really cool for me to see and interact with the book in a way that I hadn't for my whole life. I would encourage all of you to read the book sometime this month for your devotional readings.

Vicarage keeps coming closer. In the next two months I will have my interview with Dr Nielsen, the Director of Vicarage, to discuss my preferences for worship style, location, size of congregation, and needs of my supervisor. I am very excited to have this interview and I can't wait to find out where I will be sent for Vicarage. A number of people have asked me where I will be, but I only get to give my preferences in the interview, and those might not all work together. I also will have no advance knowledge of where I am going. If you watch the Live Stream of Call Day on May 1, when my name is read, you will know where I am going, but that will be the first time I know where I am going. That is very humbling for me, but I know that between God, Dr. Nielsen, and the District Presidents, I am in very safe hands. Regardless of where I end up next year, it will be a time of growth and learning for me.

November is one of my favorite liturgical months of the Church Year. We as the Church start with All Saint's Day, where we remember with gratitude those saints that have come before us, but we also remember members of the Body of Christ who are living around the World, so that together with one voice we join the angels, archangels, and the whole company of God praising our God and saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored. Hosanna in the highest." I love this day because as we live in this broken and corrupted world, we will have sorrow, and suffering, and yet when we put our focus on what God has done for you, we can rejoice remembering our loved ones who have died. We also have the same praise that we give to God across all languages that exist on the planet right now. It seems like a reversal of the Tower of Babel, and on the Last Day, there will be a perfect reversal and there will be one language that we all speak, giving praise to our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Advent is quickly approaching and that may be my favorite season because it ties in to the beginning and end of the Church Year. Christ came once, and that starts our Church Year. Christ is coming again, and that closes our Year. As Christians, we ask Jesus to come quickly, and we remember that this month as we prepare for Advent. God's richest blessings to all of you this month!✝