The first verse today overlaps with last week’s gospel, and is worth repeating. Jesus said **“Today, scripture has been fulfilled.”**

We learned the word TODAY in the Greek is in perfect tense, meaning **ongoing**, **repetitive**, and **re-occurring**.

Jesus is saying “Today this Scripture is fulfilled and continues to be fulfilled and will keep being fulfilled

 and therefore will keep **needing to be fulfilled** in our presence.

Each day God comes to us and so we ought to pay closer attention to our surroundings and listen more closely. Epiphany helps us focus on the presence of Christ!

Friday morning I couldn’t possibly have missed all the signs...through devotions, through song and then through an elderly couple.

The first epiphany of sorts began with Rick Warren’s daily email where he pointed out the words in Psalm 23:7

 “Surely Your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...”

Only he used the New Living Translation which reads “Surely goodness and **unfailing love** will **pursue** me all the days of my life.”

It reminded me of the message for today’s gospel...where Jesus is definitely moving...through the crowd...unfazed by the betrayal and the pending danger.

Jesus **slips right through** in factas if to say no matter what I am always going to be here. Nothing can touch me and I will let nothing harm you. Jesus is relentless is **pursuing** us...

Just as He miraculously walks away from danger so Jesus leads us away from that which threatens our livelihood.

 He speaks to us in multiple ways - yet we often let Him slip through our day without *really* seeing Him.

This 23 Psalm is often used at funerals because of the ‘valley of the shadow of death’ language, and the eternal promise but we encounter death like circumstances almost every day and live to tell about it.

Maybe we don’t face not actual death per se, but we act as if we do. We stress out over things we cannot control, we worry ourselves sick about the future; we try to DO things to overcome the pending peril because we actually think we have control.

The 23rd Psalm is for the living too and reminds us that God never tires of pursuing us, offering complete and unconditional love...especially in those dark days.

It doesn’t matter what we’ve done, who we are today, or even what we will become tomorrow. Today God’s goodness and mercy abounds.

**...because scripture will keep needing to be fulfilled...in our presence.**

The second Word I received from God that morning came from Sarah Young...in fact 3 beautiful reminders of God’s everlasting presence.

Psalm 28:7. “The Lord is my strength and my shield.”

Psalm 56:3 “When I am afraid I put my trust in You.”

and Matthew 6:34 “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Obviously God was telling me not to worry, He wanted me to know that He’s got my back...in fact I am sure God went ahead of me and paved the way.

 I could feel His presence, hear His voice and understand that I was not the one in control.

**God sees clearly that which we cannot.**

“We [only] see dimly.” I love this verse in Corinthians, it is part of the Love chapter, which is almost always used at weddings. “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face...”

No matter how clear we think we see ourselves and the days ahead, no matter how much we think we have a promising future with our spouse we only see part of it...we do not see the complete picture.

But we don’t have to worry because God wants to be part of our lives...and help us through everything!

He doesn’t want to vanish from our sight because of our stubbornness, insecurities, biases, and hatred...

We need to slow down, breathe deeply and quietly repeat the words, “Be still and know that I am God.”

It may require sifting through the news cycle, social media, traffic rage, the needs of our children and whatever demands come our way, but we can do it.

**Because Scripture will keep needing to be fulfilled in our presence.**

We are part of that by...listening to the voices around us.

Which takes me to third Word

God offered me that morning.

This time it was a song on the radio by an artist I did not recognize.

Danny Gokey

The title of the song

“Haven’t Seen it Yet.”

The video is about a father and daughter whose relationship evolves over the years but soon overshadowed by her independence.

As their ideals slowly begin to clash she withdraws...and eventually runs away.

*He* is shown in the video distraught but remembering the past and holding on to the future with hope. At some point he is led to the garage to a box of firecrackers.

*She* is shown hanging out on the streets begging for food and money, and almost mugged ....but she manages to run away, by slipping out of her coat.

Sitting on dark corner, cold and scared she is given a new coat by a stranger which evokes memories of her own...times when her father would wrap his coat around her.

She decides it is time to go home, and as she gets close she sees the fireworks her father has set off.

This welcoming sign causes her to run faster and into his arms once again.

 The song is about trust and hope while not allowing tomorrow’s fears to overcome us.

The lyrics.

*Don’t forget the things that God has done before*
*And remember He can do it all once more*

*It's like the brightest sunrise*
*Waiting on the other side of the darkest night*

*Don't ever lose hope, hold on and believe*
*Maybe you just haven't seen it,*

*God had the solution before you had the problem*
*He sees the best in you when you feel at your worst*
*So in the questioning don't ever doubt God’s love for you*
*'Cause it's only in His love that you'll find a breakthrough,*

*Oh It's like the brightest sunrise*
*Waiting on the other side of the darkest night*
*Don't ever lose hope, hold on and believe*
*Maybe you just haven't seen it, ...just haven't seen it yet*

Listening to this song, while soft flakes continued to drift to the earth,

I heard through my eyes and heart

God’s Word for the fourth time that morning when I spotted an older gentleman walking slowly around his parked car to the passenger’s side

.. where he opened the door and held out his hand...

As she reached out and grabbed ahold of his hand you could almost feel her tender hearted smile as he helped his wife out of the car and onto the snow packed parking lot.

Together they turned and walked slowly to the café as he proceeded to hold her hand all the way to the door.

And that‘s when it hit me. The morning’s voices of God culminated in this perfect image!!!

God carefully and continually pursues us. God takes us by our hand and leads us to the next part of our day.

And we, you and me, we reach out to take God’s hand and allow Him to guide us, and keep us from falling.

We ought not to be afraid, for God is our stronghold and assures us He follows us, pursues us and loves us unconditionally all the days of our lives.

Each day is a gift...one to enjoy and to seek out Christ’s presence because

**Scripture will keep needing to be fulfilled in our presence. Amen.**