

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

STAYING IN SERVICE ATTIRE



The readings for this Sunday show us two opposing logics: one is driven by the desire for justice and peace, by openness to others and to God; the other seeks power, domination, pleasure, and immediate satisfaction. Each of these texts opens avenues for questioning what guides us in our daily choices. The first reading is an excerpt from the book of Wisdom. It takes us back to the first century before Jesus Christ. Many Jews went abroad. The Greeks ridicule them because they say they have a special knowledge of God; they call themselves “sons of God” and “set apart”. Even among their compatriots, many have abandoned religious practice. They have ended up denying their faith. They can no longer bear the faithfulness of believers because it has become a

reproach to them.

The difficulties and trials of these believers are also ours. We live in a world where many have become indifferent or hostile to the faith. The scandals that have come to light in recent weeks only increase this suffering. But we have the firm hope that evil and hatred will not have the last word. All these trials that strike the Church are a call to cling firmly to the Lord. We can always count on Him. Nothing can separate us from His love. The true Light can only be found in the Wisdom that comes from God; it is “righteousness, Peace, Tolerance, Understanding, Fruitful in benefits”. It transforms our hearts and will make us artisans of peace.

The Gospel of Saint Mark denounces a temptation that divides the Church; in the words of Pope Francis, it is “the worldly desire to have power”, the desire and the desire “to go higher”. All this happens now when Jesus speaks “of service and humiliation”. He announces to His disciples that “The Son of Man is delivered into the hands of men; they will kill Him, and three days after His death he will rise again.”

Reading this Gospel, we see clearly that the apostles have not understood anything; Jesus has just spoken to them in a language of humiliation, death, and redemption. They speak “a language of careerists”. Their only concern is to go as high as possible in power. For Jesus, this is the opportunity to make a very firm point: “If anyone wants to be first, let him be last of all and servant of all.”

Through these three readings, it is God who speaks to us; the righteous man who suffers (1st reading) refers to the persecuted Christians who are forced to flee their country. We can also recognize ourselves through the schemer that Saint James speaks to us about. The Lord wants to free us from this search for ourselves. And in the Gospel, He reminds us that the truly great are not those who seek first places and honors but those whose hearts are open to others. We are therefore called to be a Church “at the service” of others, especially the most fragile. Christ is present with us every day, until the end of the world. He wants to lead us in His footsteps to the end of love. His Eucharistic Bread is distributed to us to give us the strength to love like Him and with Him. Let us pray to Him that He may give us strength and courage to remain in “service attire”.

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