

The Second Sunday after Trinity

June 21, 2020

“ Come, for all things are now ready”

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost- Amen!

The past couple of Sunday's in our readings, we have been thinking about doors! We have reflected together on the powerful images of the open door in Heaven, and sadly about the closed door of the rich man's heart in last Sunday's Gospel. We have also been reminded that it is Christ alone who is the door that leads to all the eternal blessedness of Heaven- that it is through His Holy Suffering and death, that the Kingdom of Heaven has been opened for all those who will simply believe and trust in His power to save and bring new life and hope.

During this long Trinity Season of the Church Year, we will be drawn deeper and deeper into exploring what it is to be a true Disciple of the ever living one- We will find ourselves drawn ever closer to the Lord of Life, who will patiently and lovingly instruct us in the interior life of prayer and love.

Our Gospel reading this morning invites us to consider the great supper of the Kingdom of God. It describes for us what lies beyond the open door of Heaven for those who have entered this

blessed reality through the Grace and Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. For every Christian believer, this is the goal of all of our life here below, to look forward with love and anticipation to the unending joys and wonders of Paradise. Each one of us surely must find our greatest happiness in meditating upon the indescribable privilege of being one of those Blessed souls who are called to sit down at the table of the Kingdom of God.

Of His great grace and mercy, our Blessed Lord relates a very familiar story to those who sat with Him- Christ describes a certain man that had carefully and lovingly prepared a great feast, and who then sent out his servant to announce to his chosen guests that the time had come for them to come and taste of the love and generosity of the one who had invited them to share in this act of charity and affection. One would have thought that his guests would have been overjoyed to rush to the table of their friend and be fed from his table of abundance. But here is where the story takes a tragic turn. Instead of joy and anticipation, each of the guests begins to find a reason to be excused. Each of the guests sees the pursuit of their own affairs to be more important than answering the call of friendship.

But here is where our Lord's story takes a positive turn. Instead of just calling the whole thing off, the master of the feast sends his servant out to call others to the dinner. He wants his servant to go in search of those who **WOULD** come-to the poor, the maimed, the halt, and the blind! How very generous this great man is- to call to his table those who would never have expected

to find themselves the object of such generosity. Having invited these, and finding that there was still room, the servant goes out to the outer limits so to speak, to compel all who would come to come and taste of his masters goodness.

This is a very powerful picture of the kingdom of God isn't it friends? The Lord Jesus seeks to draw us a picture that we can all understand, of the mercy and Grace of our dear Father in Heaven. It is really you and I who have been called to the heavenly banquet of the Kingdom. Christ has so lovingly called the world to sit down with gratitude and love in the kingdom of God. But this is a kingdom which is not built by those who have earned their way in by their ability, or deserving! Rather, we are the poor, the halt, and the maimed that the Father of mercy has so lovingly sought for. It is people like you and I that Christ has come to call! It is people like you and I that Christ has suffered and died for, so that the door of Heaven might be opened, and we might find ourselves embraced in the loving arms of the Blessed and Holy Trinity for ever!

Friends, there is a very, very important lesson for us all in the reaction of the first invited guests to the Feast. As we read of the excuses of their excuses, we need to look at our own hearts to see if our love is directed at the Kingdom of God, or if we have allowed ourselves to be distracted by the visible things of the world, rather than the things of God. Remember that Our Blessed Lord taught us that our treasure is found where our hearts are. We need to think deeply about our loves, and ask rhe

Lord to put our loves in order for His Glory. WE all need to be seeking first the Kingdom of God, and then trusting that the Lord knows all of the other things that we need for the life of soul and body. It sounds so simple and yet, each of us knows how very difficult this can be!

In our fallen world, we are surrounded by those things that promise happiness, and fulfillment. Yet we know that anything short of the Kingdom of God will only bring us short term satisfaction, and sadly, all too often, disappointment and loss.

This is not to say that we must ignore or abandon our earthly lives and responsibilities-far from it! Rather we are called to see all that we have and are, as gracious gifts from the Father of Lights to His Dear Children! We need to need to see ourselves and all we have and are from the perspective of eternity!

If we can lift our eyes and hearts from earthy things, to heavenly things, then we will want more than anything to seek the will of God before and within all things. If we do this then we won't have to make excuses as the ungrateful guests did-rather our outward lives, responsibilities, and vocations will be opportunities to serve, and witness to the love of God in Christ-a love that has opened the very door of Heaven!

St. John reminds us this morning in the Epistle, that the hallmark of a true, and humble follower of Christ is love! This is not simply love as understood by the world, but rather a love that comes as a Divine Gift to all those who believe on the Name of

the Lord Jesus Christ, and follow Him as their Lord and Saviour in a life of love and self giving! It is this love that is the very atmosphere of Heaven, and that has come down to earth to draw people like you and I to the Glories of the great Supper of the Lamb.

Today dear friends, we are invited to a blessed foretaste of the Kingdom! Here in the Sacrament of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ, we have prepared for us a rich feast of Divine Things. Here at the Blessed Eucharist, we find a supper that promises us-each of us a strengthening and refreshing of soul and body! Here we receive the true and ever living bread of God in truth! Here we find new life and grace- new strength to resist the enticings of the evil one to let go of our hope of eternal life that is ours through the suffering , death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear friends, we are called to Heaven! Let us not allow the things of earth to beguile our hearts and minds, but rather let us be prayerfully determined not to prefer anything above Christ! We belong to Him and can find true and lasting safety for our souls only as we moment by moment, and hour by hour seek His perfect and life giving will and purpose for our lives.

The Collect that we have prayed today asks our Lord to keep us under His good providence, and asks that we might have a perpetual fear and love of His Holy Name. There is the whole matter isn't it? That we might trust His Providence to lead us, and

guide us in our lives, and that we might have that Blessed fear and Love of the Name that is above every Name.

If we will do this, then we will find a joy and direction in our lives that the world with all its allurements, cannot destroy. You and I will be men and women who will graciously accept the invitation to eternal blessedness in the Great Supper of the Lamb. We will answer the Merciful Call of Christ to come to Him and abide in His Everlasting presence, both here, and in Eternity!

AMEN