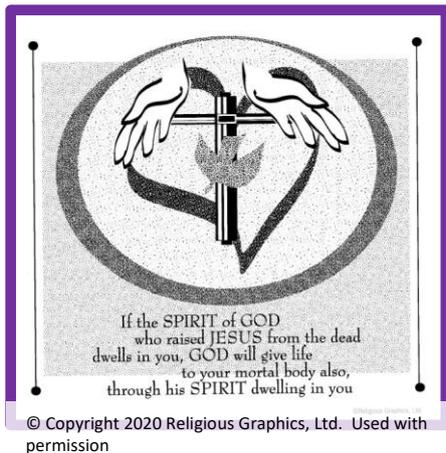


Lent 5 20A

29 March 2020

Father Slowiak



Bishop Callahan has called priests not to publically celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist on Sundays or weekdays until further notice even through Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil of and Easter.

I will celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist at 10:00 am on Sunday outside of a public invitation. I invite parish members and families to join at 10:00 am (or choose an appropriate family time) on Sunday around your family table, 29 March and observe the Lord's Day with the following Communal Prayer.

- L Leader (Certainly rotate within a family the role of the Leader)
A Assembly

Opening

L The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Psalm 23:1, [New American Bible](#)

- L In the name of the Father . . .
A and of the Son . . .

Penitential Act

L God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, knowing my (our) sin, I (We) acknowledge Your compassion and mercy.

- L Lord, have mercy.
A Lord, have mercy.
L Christ, have mercy.
A Christ, have mercy.
L Lord, have mercy.
A Lord, have mercy.

- L Lord, bring me (us) to life everlasting.
A Amen.

Prayer

L God who is Father to us, the love of the Son led Him to choose a life-sacrifice that closed on the Cross so that we might glory in new life, the life of our original calling. Move into our living, we pray, and change our selfishness into self-giving. Help us into the creation You have given us and help let go of the world, the environment we have created, so there will be a transformation of the darkness of its pain and suffering into the life of the resurrected Son. Amen. Founded on the 1975, [Roman Missal](#)

[Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8.](#)

- L With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
A With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

- L Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.
- A With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
- L If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered.
- A With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
- L I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD.
- R With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.
- L For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption;
And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities.
- R With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

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Comment

L Saint Paul writes, *Those who are in the flesh cannot please God*. Sounds like we do not have a chance, that we are a motley crew . . . and certainly, this is because of sin. Right? But if we think this way, what is the source of this understanding about the human person? Where do we find this in the Scriptures? Then, how does the life-sacrifice of Jesus to the cross fit into such an understanding of the human person? And what is this business of "pleasing God" all about? As if God is going to take away spiritual points that we've earned? Where is this image of God in the Scriptures?

But before we can throw up our hands, Paul continues, *But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit [of God], if only the [Holy] Spirit of God dwells in you*.

As I understand, *in the flesh*, is one way of Paul saying that a person is not evil, bad, or immoral, yes, there is sin here, but *in the flesh* is to be selfish and not in a dynamic friendship with God (Paul uses the term, *Old Adam*). As boys and girls, men and women who are baptized into Christ Jesus (*New Adam*), Paul teaches that we are not in the flesh if we choose to allow the Holy Spirit of God to dwell in us. Consider that we are moving to become fully human and fully alive if we choose to walk in communion with the risen Christ Jesus . . . and therein is our salvation, our healing, our redemption, our rescue. I invite you to read the verses again and even take the risk of reading further in Romans. So, where in myself do I find the Old Adam and where do I find the New Adam? And, what does this mean? How do I and could I respond as a follower of Jesus? –Fr Slowiak

Intercessions

L In the presence of God, whose light shines on us in Christ Jesus, we intercede for the needs of all peoples.

Wherever the power of spiritual death holds believers bound, summon forth life in the name of Jesus. We pray.

Be with health care workers in these days and those who staff essential businesses. We pray.

Create in lands made desolate by warfare and in the lives of refugees a season of healing and rest. We pray.

Open the minds of those who control worldly power to see power as a tool that contributes to the quality of human life. We pray.

Hold us close to You in this time of quarantine. We pray.

Guide us to understand the difference between "wants" and "needs." We pray.

Sitting at the Table with Christ Jesus

L Jesus, lover of the suffering and healer of the hurting, we bless You for Your compassionate presence among us. We praise You that You did not stay aloof from human need, but came and shared our weakness and experienced our need and triumphed.

Lord Jesus, something about You shows a power even over powerful death in all of its forms. And, yes, something about You frightens us, we who so easily adapt and adjust to the status quo and how life has come to be that of individuals outside of a holy communion with You. We may complain about much, but given enough time, we can settle in quite easily outside of Your way.

Raise us from the dead, Lord Jesus! Bring us from death to life, no matter how much we protest. Amen.

Closing

L The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

A The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Psalm 23:1, New American Bible

A In the name of the Father . . .

Next week Communal Prayer for Passion/Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday and Holy Saturday.



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