

July 6, 2014 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introduction to the First Reading: When the Messiah came he was not the conquering warrior that most Jews expected. He was meek and humble and a man of peace. But amazingly even that had been predicted by the prophet Zechariah.

Reading 1 [Zec 9:9-10](#)

Thus says the LORD:

Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king shall come to you;
a just savior is he,
meek, and riding on an ass,
on a colt, the foal of an ass.
He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim,
and the horse from Jerusalem;
the warrior's bow shall be banished,
and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14](#)

R/ (cf. 1) **I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

or:

R/ Alleluia.

I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

R/ I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R/ Alleluia.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R/ I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R/ Alleluia.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

R/ I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

or:

R/ Alleluia.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his works.

The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
R/ I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.
or:
R/ Alleluia.

Introduction to the Second Reading: We know that our spirit and our mind and our body are all good, created by God. Yet there is some part of us that still fights the good. St. Paul calls the part of us that tends to the good, the spirit. He calls the part of us that tends to the bad, the flesh.

Reading 2 [Rom 8:9, 11-13](#)

Brothers and sisters:
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.
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 that dwells in you.
Consequently, brothers and sisters,
we are not debtors to the flesh,
to live according to the flesh.
For if you live according to the flesh, you will die,
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
you will live.

Gospel [Mt 11:25-30](#)

At that time Jesus exclaimed:
“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to little ones.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;

and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Homily: Many years ago in a parish that I had there was a woman who was causing a lot of trouble. She was mean to people, uncooperative, and caused problems for me and for the parish. Several people advised me to throw her out or at least to stay as far away from her as possible. That just didn't seem right. I wasn't sure what to do. Finally, after a lot of prayer, I did the exact opposite. I went out of my way to be nice to her. I tried to think of things that would make her happy and went to great lengths to be especially nice.

At first she was suspicious. But finally she changed. I was surprised by how much she actually changed. It took time but she began being nice to people and then to do wonderful things for the parish. God's way worked.

I give that example because sometimes there is someone we shun that way. We misjudge him and try to stay away from him. That person is Jesus. I know that sounds strange, but think about it. I believe we do it out of fear. We can have a relationship with Him but only at arm's length. We pray and go to Mass but we are uncomfortable about getting too close to Him. We're afraid that if we open up to Him He will see how really bad we are on the inside. He will see our sins and not be pleased with us. He won't be able to forgive us because deep down we don't really want to change and don't think we can. So we avoid Him. We don't get too close.

Also there can be fear that if ever we did get close then He would ask something of us that we won't want to do. He'll expect us to do more than we can or more than we are comfortable doing. It's easier to just do the minimum and stay away. But we misjudge Him. He's not like that. He loves us. He accepts us as we are. It's the amazing love in Him that stirs the love in us. He brings us joy. And joy makes change easy. It's really total unconditional love that we've been yearning for all our lives, even if we didn't recognize it.

Listen again to what Jesus says. He's talking to us. “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”