

July 9, 2020

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord!

Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalms 145:1-2; 8-14

Romans 8:9; 11-13

Matthew 11:25-30

In the first reading Zechariah rejoices because he understands the chariots will be banished and peace proclaimed. It is the Lord who has dominion from sea to sea and the power to bring about great change even dissipating the ways of war.

The psalmist extols, blesses, and praises God for he sees the great kindness and mercy given to the people. The Lord lifts up those who are falling and raises those who are bowed down. God's kingdom is for all ages and endures for all generations.

In the second reading Paul explains that we are in the spirit since the Spirit of God dwells in us and gives us life. Anyone who doesn't have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ. We are to put to death all evil deeds and the One that raised Jesus will also raise us.

In the Gospel Jesus prays and praises the Father who has hidden knowledge from the learned but revealed it to the merest children. Jesus invites the weary and the burdened to come to him and be refreshed in gentleness and humility and find rest for their souls.

The Father knows the Son,
The Son knows the Father,
The Holy Spirit knows us better than we know ourselves.

Zechariah knows God is the One of peace who will banish the elements of war and violence. The psalmist knows how kind, gracious, and compassionate is the Lord who lifts up those who fall, who raises those who are weighted down with difficulties. Paul remembers that we are in the Spirit that dwells in us in order to give us true life. In the Gospel Jesus remembers us when we are weary and burdened and offers spiritual refreshment in the Eucharist and in the words of scripture; both are powerful in spirit and in life. Receive the Eucharist humbly and listen to the Scriptures attentively.



Do this in remembrance of me! To do something in memory of someone means we have some familiarity with the person. We have come to know Jesus from our parents, religious education, our prayer life, attending church, and perhaps even from friends. For most older Catholics one important element was most likely missing: the Bible, which probably played a minimal role in their understanding of Jesus. The Second Vatican Council took seriously the words of St. Jerome: "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." If we are to remember Christ at the Eucharist, we must first know Christ; and in order to know Christ we must also know the Scriptures.



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Reading Sacred Scriptures

*All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*¹

We should seek in the scriptures that which is spiritually profitable as well as what is beautiful in style and form. God speaks to us in scriptures in diverse ways, independently of who we are because *there is no partiality with God.*² Our imagination can sometimes hinder us when we try to embellish passages which should be interpreted with simplicity.



Read scriptures faithfully with humility and simplicity and you will profit from your efforts; read them to impress others with your knowledge and you foster arrogance.

Besides scriptures there are other writings that may seem simple yet are profound even if their authors are not well known. Consider the substance of what is being said not the renown of the author for many of the unknown ones have kept *their eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.*³

Seek answers to your questions and carefully read and listen to the words of the prophets and the saints. Appreciate their words for these have been inspired and are written for good reason. *The wise by hearing them will advance in learning, the intelligent will gain sound guidance.*⁴

*For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.*⁵

This article is based on Book 1, Chapter 5 of Thomas of Kempis' writing, "Imitation of Christ." It is not an exact translation, and there are many of those, but a personal reflection on his writing; if any of it helps give credit to Thomas of Kempis; if any of it fails the responsibility is mine.

¹ 2Tim 3:16

² Romans 2:11

³ Hebrews 12:2

⁴ Proverbs 1:5

⁵ Romans 15:4