

JOHN 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,

it remains only a single grain; but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves their life loses it; anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a person serves me, they must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour them.

Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;

now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

COMMENTARY: After reflecting on the text, a good discussion could take place re the use of the following phrases: The wisdom of the Cross; The Road less travelled.

Liturgy of The Word

5th SUNDAY OF LENT

3.17.24



Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

COMMENTARY: The Covenant with God can only be understood by those love the way of God. When this comes first all else follows. The heart is where the mystery of God is found.

What we must ask is ‘how open are we to this Covenant?’ It doesn’t stop with loving God but extends to all we know now about our world: war, poverty, destruction of the planet, reverence for human life. “Learn to know the Lord” is the first step.

HEBREWS 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

COMMENTARY: What is being said here is that Christ submitted to God to such an extent there was no room in his heart for anything else.

As the Church grows in its understanding of how we are called to live, imitating Christ in his surrender becomes all the more challenging.

In today’s world, we are much more conscious of the seriousness of things like racism, poverty, human greed and so forth.

Discuss the awareness of sins compared to your life 20 or 30 years ago.