

The First Sunday After Trinity

By Norm Dupuis

June 18, 2017

“God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him”

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

This sentence of Holy Scripture taken from today’s Epistle serves as the theme of the entire Trinity season. Trinitytide is a time of learning just what is involved in the gracious call to new life that our Blessed Lord Jesus invites us to enter into. Today’s epistle and Gospel lay out for us the very foundation of the true life in Christ. The lessons draw us into the mystery of love-both the overflowing, abundant love of God toward us, and the spiritual fruit of that love in our lives, shown in the Christian soul that walks in divine charity with others.

This theme of love seems so familiar doesn’t it, and yet the actual living out of our vocation of being living vessels of that love can seem so difficult. Each one of us is faced with situations that test and try our faith in in the promise of God’s ever presence with us, and there are times when loving others is the last thing that we want to do. Yet in spite of these temptations to give up in despair, still the will of God is that we seek to be so filled with the holy and life giving love of the Trinity, that in all we say and do, the blessed light of Christ would shine brightly both inwardly in our souls and outwardly to a world so overwhelmed by the darkness of sin and the false, empty promises of life without God.

In the Gospel reading for this Sunday, we hear our Lord teaching about love-true and genuine love, that brings life and healing grace. We read of a man so very much like ourselves, caught up in the net of indulgence to the so called good

things of the outward life, living wholly according to the satisfaction of the senses-completely oblivious to the inner poverty that is deep within his soul. Of course there is nothing wrong with a good meal or fine clothing, but the ever present danger is that these outward blessings from the hand of God can be twisted by the old adam living within us, that we can become blinded by them and see them as an end in themselves. The soul can become darkened by self-indulgence, and we become blind to both the needs of others and the spiritual poverty of our own hearts. The rich man is too involved in self-love to respond to Lazarus the beggar “..which was laid at his gate full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table”. If only the rich man had been more concerned for the good of his soul and lovingly embraced this poor miserable man who so patiently waited for some simple act of charity and pity.

Dear friends, there is a deeper lesson for each of us in this parable, that goes beyond the call to exercise Christian charity to those whom God Almighty may place in our way. In a very real sense, the rich man clothed in purple and fine linen represents the life of every man and woman who lives separated from Him who is the true life and love of all, our Lord Jesus Christ! What a powerful image of the grace of God-this beggar lying outside the rich man’s gate! While the children of this world struggle to make their way in this life of darkness, he who is the light and life of the world lies at the gate of the hearts of mankind, longing to be welcomed into the souls of those whom he loves with such passion. God Almighty has manifested His love toward us by sending His dearest Son to suffer and die for the very sins that bar the door of Heaven to us. But to those who will open the gate of the heart and welcome this one who lies before us in such humility ,the very gates of Paradise will be thrown open.

The inspired words of the holy Apostle John tell us of the nature of this Divine love that has reached down to us in such mercy. He tells us that the love and charity of God have come to us in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is the will of our Lord that we might find our true life in Him. He is our Saviour and life giver-He and only He is the answer to the deepest longings of men and women. It is God who brings to our souls the light of truth and the promise of forgiveness and life. For each of us here today, the promise is sure, that as we confess Him as our Lord, Saviour and King, so He will abide in us in love and mercy. It is Christ Himself that will show us how to love truly and forever-He will cleanse and sanctify us, and hold us forever close to His heart and life. Friends, let's make sure today that we aren't like the blinded rich man in today's Gospel lesson. We need, and the world needs, to welcome in this lowly one that lies at the gate of our hearts, lest if we don't, we suffer the pain and agony of an eternal separation from love and mercy. Surely none of us want this, rather we know the needs of our hearts don't we- we all long for real love, God's love to descend into the deepest part of our hearts and do a work of renewing and cleansing. We long to have the eyes of our souls open so that we might have a new vision of ourselves and of the world around us. When the Lord Jesus comes to us with His gifts of grace, a new and wonderful life is born in our souls-we will begin to know the true love that will prepare us for the life of Heaven, our hearts will be open to the needs of others and we will find our true joy in reaching out to those who most need to feel that there really is a God who cares and is longing to find humble souls in which to take up His rightful place.

Friends, I pray that none of us will let this precious Trinity season pass by without a real desire on our part to be ever more closely united to our Lord. May each of us, as we receive Him today at His Holy Altar, be content to sit at His feet

during this Trinitytide, and draw from His Blessed Word the very words of eternal life and happiness. May our mercy and charity grow as the rich gifts of the Holy Ghost impart their life giving power to us. Remember always that” love is of God, and that everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God”

“ Beloved, let us love one another” Amen