

Homily For Tuesday of the 33rd Week of Ordinary Time - Year II

St Peter's 8:30am/7:00pm Masses - Nov 15, 2022

Rev 3:1-6,14-22 "Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Psalm 15:1-5 "I will place on my throne those who stand by their oath, even to their hurt."

Luke 19:1-10 "The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

(OM St. Albert the Great)

He Is Standing At the Door

Introduction

In both the first reading and the Gospel today, we hear of the kind of conversion and change to which a person is called after encountering Christ. Jesus is standing at the door of our lives and knocking. He waits for us to open up to him.

Luke

We just heard from Zacchaeus a couple of Sundays ago. He was rich by the world's standard but he discovered, upon meeting Jesus, that his works the way he had been living - made him poor and in danger of spiritual death.

Jesus was going to pass through Jericho. But Zacchaeus sensed that salvation would be passing right next to him. It says he wanted to know who Jesus was. That's the key always. Jesus also wanted to know him. It's a good thing he wasn't lukewarm about that purpose.

He found that greater thing in Jesus. Upon finding that treasure, his joy was so great that he gladly traded his physical riches for the greatest wealth of all. We just have to want to hear Jesus say: I know your works. You have conquered. You have made your clothes white.

Revelation

Even closer to home for us is the address to the seven churches of Asia Minor, which John was told to write about. We believe that the Sacred Scripture is written freely by human authors, but under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Like

the prophets of old, John the Apostle was told to write certain things about the churches of Sardis and Laodicea. He could only do that if his heart and mind were willing.

And so, we receive these warnings, which are meant for our churches as well. This is a report card, a judgment, of seven churches which were so alive in Christ when they were first established. The church at Sardis hears Jesus say: You think you are alive but, except for a few of you, you are dead. I know your works. You have stopped doing the works of holiness.

The condemnation of Laodicea is worse. What is worse than death? Complacency. They think they don't have to worry because they are rich. But they have the wrong kind of riches and, unlike Zacchaeus, think they are just fine as they are. Because of this, God condemns them right there. You think you are fine, but you are worse than dead because of your complacency. Because of this, I will spit you out of my mouth. It's strong language. It's meant for us.

In both churches, except for a few individuals, they don't hear any knocking at the door. Jesus is standing at the door of our diocese, our parishes, our hearts. He wants to come in now. In the Gospel passage and in the invitation to the churches, it is about Jesus coming into our house. "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." It is an imperative, not a suggestion. The heart that is open, like his, must act on that openness.

Call To Conversion

The world says we don't know when the end of the world is going to be so let's not worry about it, but the church says that we must think about it because it makes a difference to how we live and how we prepare for the coming of Christ in judgment at the end of our own lives and which side we will be on at the final judgment of the world.

St. Albert the Great

St. Albert the Great is a wonderful model for us. He was a man of both the natural world and the supernatural world. He wrote 36 books on the natural sciences and became the 13th century's expert on physics, geography, chemistry, biology, and astronomy. His nickname was "the teacher of everything there is to know." He used faith as a basis for his scientific discoveries. Most importantly for us, he also wrote extensively about his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. We have this from him, which is relevant to our passages today: "Banish from your heart the distractions of earth and turn your eyes to spiritual joys, that you may learn at last to repose in the light of the contemplation of God. There is no one who approaches God with a true and upright heart who isn't tested by hardships and temptations. So, even if you feel them, see to it that you don't consent to them. Instead, bear them patiently and calmly with humility and long suffering. (St. Albert)

All things come to an end and there will be a new creation at the end of time. Just as the year comes to an end, so does time. We need to be prepared. The one who conquers will wear white and be written in the book of life. They will reign with Christ. How will Christ evaluate what we have done?

Key Passages

Entrance Antiphon: *The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name.*

Collect: *Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may ever keep your commands.*

Revelation: *In my vision, I, John, heard the voice of the Lord: And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: I know your works. You have a name of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up and strengthen what remains ...If not, I will come like a thief ... Yet you have still a few persons who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white. I will not blot your name out of the book of life... And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: I know your works. You are neither cold nor hot. So, because you are lukewarm, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say: I am rich and I need nothing. You do not realize that you are wretched, and pitiable, poor, blind and naked. Therefore, buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you ... I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you ... Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

Psalms: *Those who are victorious, I will place on my throne. Those who stand by their oath, even to their hurt, who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.*

Luke: *Jesus was passing through Jericho. Zacchaeus, a very rich chief tax collector was trying to see who Jesus was, but was short in stature, so climbed a sycamore tree. Jesus looked up and said: Zacchaeus, hurry down, for I must stay at your house today. He was happy to welcome Jesus. All who saw it began to grumble and said: He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner. Zacchaeus said to the Lord: Look, half of my possessions I will give to the poor. And, if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times. Then Jesus said: Today salvation has come to this house ... for the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.*