

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 2020

The Jews – the chosen people of God – have a special role in God’s plan of salvation. We can see that expression from the three readings today. However, the ultimate purpose of Jesus’ mission in this world is that ALL SHALL BE SAVED.

God’s salvation is for all. We hear this prayer from the responsorial psalm: “O God, let all the nations praise you... May your salvation be known among all nations!”

God is for all of us, not only for a particular group of people. St. Paul’s letter to the Romans asserts this: God desires to have mercy on all. God’s gifts and mercy are for all. Jesus came to the world “to proclaim the Gospel of the kingdom to all people, and to cure every disease among the people.”

Interestingly, from today’s gospel, Jesus initially rejects the request of a Gentile woman for healing, because she is not a Jew. We often see this in our society, too. We are affected by the mentality of this worldview; we sometimes discriminate people as poor or rich, woman or man, black or white, American or Irish, or Italian, or Asian, or Mexican. Even in religious practice, we sometimes classify people as insider or outsider, newly baptized or long-time parishioner. But in Jesus there is no discrimination of rich or poor, slave or free, Gentile of Jew, woman or man at all.

With her faith, the Canaanite woman keeps begging the Lord for his love and mercy, and Jesus eventually grants her request because of her courage and persistence.

By this point, we are reassured that faith is an important factor for miracles to happen, as Jesus always says: “your faith has saved you.” Pope Francis also writes that “in the hour of trial faith brings light.”

Because of that faith, ultimately ALL SHALL BE SAVED. The Temple at Jerusalem will become a house of prayer, not only for the chosen people, but also for “all peoples.” The Lord said: “I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain.” Those who observe what is right, those who do what is just, those who love the name of the Lord, those who keep holy the Sabbath, those who practice God’s Commandments, their offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on the altar of the Lord, as he promised: “my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

There is a statement from the Second Vatican’s teaching on the reconciliation and unity of God’s people, saying: “The Church always held, and continues to hold, that Christ, out of infinite love, freely underwent suffering and death, because of the sins of all people, so that all might attain salvation.”

God extends his love and care beyond the boundaries of race and nation to all who live. God’s salvation is for all. This is our hope as we continue following Christ on our journey of faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

(from Sunday, August 16 to Saturday, August 22)

Sunday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Mary Anne Kolanoski (repose)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Keith Stahlman (repose)
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Marian Hunter (repose)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Kathy Drady & Family (thanksgiving)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Guido Mori-Prange (for health)
Saturday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Gabe Massucco (a special intention)