

DEACON TONY'S HOMILY FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2020

Our first reading is from the Book of Revelations. This is the book that the Risen Jesus instructed John to write to the Churches of Asia Minor in order to reveal the present and future of God's people. In it we see the **intimate connection** of the Kingdom on earth and the Kingdom of heaven.

In chapter 7, where our letter begins, there are symbols that we have seen in the reality of the Jewish exodus from Egypt as well as the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

We are reminded of the blood of the pure lambs that were spread on the doors of the Israelites so the Angel of Death would pass over them as they went about slaying the first male of every Egyptian household.

In our reading we see an angel from the east and holding a seal of the living God.

"Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees
until we put **the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.**"

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,
wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;
they have **washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.**"

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.
R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

The question that we need to ask ourselves is: **are our lifestyles reflecting Jesus?**

Does the world see us as just people trying to get through life on our own power rather than relying on the grace that God offers us every day? The grace that was originally given to us at our Baptism and that is our strength throughout our lives to guide us in our call to be Christ to others.

Our call is symbolized by the white garment. The early converts to Christianity were instructed to turn their backs on their old way of life and put on the garment of Christ. In other words, to be Christ to others. Galatians 3:27

It's like getting new clothes. We suddenly have a new life; a life of service and of caring for those around us. We have something to offer others that can make a difference in their lives. The hope of living a blessed life. We are fortunate if we have figured out that it is not about us but it is all about the relationships that we have forged with those around us.

This is illustrated by Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount.

Let us not lose the symbolism of Jesus sitting on a mountain, representing the Father's high place, and His disciples following His lead and climbing, reaching, seeking God in their lives.

Just as the Father gave His people, who had been wandering in the desert, the commands as a road map to heaven, so in our Gospel, He gives us the beatitudes as behaviors that will draw us closer to Our Father in heaven. Things we can do in our relationships to make the world a better and peaceful place. This is what pleases God. Our way of being Christ to others. Speaking for him in word and deed.

poor in spirit : RECOGNIZE OUR POVERTY AND OUR NEED FOR GOD

they who mourn : REGRET A LOSS; EMPATHIZE

meek : GENTLE

thirst for righteousness : JUSTICE; THE RIGHT THING

merciful : COMPASSION; FORGIVENESS

clean of heart : SIMPLE AND TRUE; NOT DUPLICITOUS

peacemakers : BUILDER OF BRIDGES

persecuted for righteousness : PUT VALUES OF TRUTH ABOVE YOURSELF

Let us remember to take stock of the things that we should rid from our lives and replace them with Jesus' suggestions for living a blessed life. All done for the love of the one who shed His blood, so that we could have a share in the Father's eternal home.