

6TH SUNDAY ORD. TIME (C)
THE RESURRECTION IS OUR HOPE
February 12/13, 2022

1The first reading, the responsorial Psalm, and the Gospel, present to us two categories of people. Those who fear God, and those who do not but trust in human beings and love the world. Those who trust in God and fear Him are blessed; those who trust in human beings and seek their strength in flesh are cursed. The words seem too strong and intimidating. But it is the reality which has been presented to us.

2According to the first reading, the one who trusts in human beings is cursed, and his situation is like a barren bush in the desert. His state of life is miserable. That person cannot bear fruit because there is nothing to support him. The grace of God is absent in his life. The Psalmist also compares the wicked with chaff which the wind drives away. He has no foothold.

3Those who fear God are like a tree planted beside waters; the leaves are green all the time and it bears fruit in due season. Water is a symbol of life, and a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Those who fear God are supported by God's grace. Whatever they do prospers.

4Jesus in the Gospel makes it clear what the two texts have presented. He also taught that blessed are those who suffer now because of their faith in God and their desire to be righteous. And woe to those who have taken the world as their everything and pursuing the happiness of this world.

5These people who lived at different times present to us almost the same message, and it is this that without God we are bound to fail in many things and lose our souls as well. What is the motivation for trusting in God and not in human beings? In the first place, human beings cannot be trusted fully, and they can fail us at any time. Again, we are finite, and God is infinite. Even the dependable friend can disappoint us. But God never fails. He fulfills His promises all the time.

6St. Paul also explains why it is important to trust in God. He reminds us that the passion, death and the resurrection of Jesus are our hope and that we will not be disappointed if we trust in God. He makes it clear that "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins...If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all".

Then there is no need to fast and pray, read the Bible, go to Church. There is no need to think about heaven and hell. Eat and drink for tomorrow you die. Then there is no difference between we human beings and other animals.

7Our gathering here today and every day may indicate that we have faith in the resurrection of Christ and His saving power. Does this faith help us hunger and thirst for righteousness, and rely on Him? Are we convinced that we are worshipping a living and faithful God?

8Looking around us today, with the advancement of science and technology, and the discovery and invention of many sophisticated gadgets, there is the big temptation to forget about the action of God in our daily lives. Now everything should be proved scientifically; there is little or no faith in God. Where are the inventors? Where are the world's great men and women whose names have been on front pages and headlines? We wither like grass, and it is in God that our end will be fruitful.

9Another thing that can take us away from God or diminish our faith or weaken it is the numerous disasters and evil deeds we experience day in and day out. The question many people ask is, "where is God, that all these things are happening"? But is it not possible that all these things are happening because we have forgotten about God and trusted in our own abilities to do things and successes? We have failed to acknowledge the grace of God in all that we do. The power of the resurrection is ignored.

10The author of Hebrews has this to tell us: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb.13:5-7). "Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death. The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry, but He thwarts the craving of the wicked" (Prov.10:2-3).