Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 23, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

It seems that God likes to do big things in a little way. At Christmas time, we saw the Savior of the whole world born in a simple, humble cave in a small, unimportant town. In This weekend's gospel, we see the fulfillment of centuries of promises and waiting come to pass in the unpretentious synagogue of the virtually unknown village of Nazareth.

It was the practice in synagogue worship to have a reading from the Law and another from the Prophets of the Old Testament, followed by a sermon. In this weekend's event, Jesus was invited to act as both reader and preacher. It was really as if the eyes of all the people of God who had ever lived were looking upon Jesus at that moment. Century upon century of promise from God and of waiting by the people focused upon that moment in time. Jesus read a passage from the book of Isaiah. Then he spoke simple, but momentous words - words beyond the comprehension of his listeners. "Today the Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of everything ever written in the Old Testament; he embodied and completed in his one person the whole destiny and purpose of the chosen people.

People's minds had been darkened because of sin; it was difficult for them to know God. But from the chosen people God raised up great prophets, teachers of the people, like Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and many others. These men taught the people what God was like. By means of the prophets, the judges and the kings, God pointed out the way of life that his people were to follow. God made of his chosen ones a priestly people. They were set apart to offer pleasing worship to the one true God and to receive his favors in return.

But the whole destiny of the chosen people was in the future, in a great day of the Lord when the Messiah would come. The Messiah was not just to fulfill some prophecies made about his coming; he would perfect and complete the whole purpose of the chosen people. Then on that apparently ordinary day in a humble synagogue of Nazareth, the big thing happened in a little way. Jesus in simple words spoke tremendous truth.

We are the new chosen people of God. We are people, however, not of promise but of fulfillment. Jesus is alive and active among us, the people of the Church. To fulfill our destiny, we must be committed to Christ. He is the person we must know, because he is the truth. His way of living we must follow and imitate, because he is the way to true happiness. His grace we must strive to preserve and increase within ourselves, because he is the life, and that grace must flow out to the whole world through us.

Our commitment to Christ should be strengthened by our celebration of the Mass. It is here that we hear the truth of Christ proclaimed. It is here that we see how Christ lived. It is here that we receive Christ as our spiritual life. Christ is our truth, our way and our life. It is here in the Mass that we are preeminently in contact with Christ. From what we do here, we should derive the power to fulfill our destiny as the chosen people of God.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**January 25**	**11:00AM**
Combong Families		
Wed.	**January 26**	**11:00AM**
Maura Bernardino† (birthday anniversary)		Lydia & Bob
Thur.	**January 27**	**11:00AM**
Sharon Sevidal Mercado†		Imelda
Fri.	**January 28**	**11:00AM**
Marianne Pet Berman		Lilibeth Licad
Sat.	**January 29**	**4:30PM**
Steve & Teddy†		Family
Sun.	**January 30**	**9:00AM**
Barcemia Lauder†		Jenny
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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