

## November 10, 2019

### Thirty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time

At the end of time, everything will be new. My Grandpa Fred, my mom's dad was married four times. A few weeks after his third wife Mary, died he came to visit me when I was pastor in Enumclaw. He asked with a worried look on his face, "What will happen when I die and there are three women are there to meet me?" I told him, "Don't worry Grandpa, it will be one big party." I was really trying to tell him that at end of time everything will be new, far beyond what we can imagine. Sometimes I think that most people think that heaven will be a happier version of life on earth. No worries, no pains and getting to do whatever we loved to do here on earth all the time. I hear this in eulogies, for instance if deceased liked to golf, "May he enjoy the big golf course in the sky forever." A nice thought, but falls short of the Biblical sense of God making all things new. Greek, the original language of the New Testament, has two words for the word "new". The first, *neos* means something new in time. *Kainos* means something new in Character. The Sadducees in the Gospel of Luke today were thinking of that first notion of new, *neos* something new in time. People will get married in eternity just as they do here. Jesus preached about a new heaven and a new earth in the sense of *kainos*, a complete transformation. All will be one body, the one bride of Christ. "As children judged worth to attain the coming age and to the resurrection of the body will not marry." All things will be new because Jesus came in our humanity so that we could share in his divinity. We can say those words, we can believe those words but we don't yet have the capacity to see, hear and understand what it fully means. As we read in II Corinthians, *Eye has not seen, hear has not heard, nor has it even dawned on Man what God has prepared for those who love him.* (II Cor. 2:9) The big mistake of Sadducees was that they thought that the things we experience here on earth are more real than things of the life to come. We believe that everything of this life has the potential to bigger reality of the life to come.

Here is a question: How much time do you give your final destination, where all things will be new? What do you do each day to prepare for what is to come? It

can be so easy to let the activities of our daily life consume us and we never give much time or thought to where we are going. I know that in serving as your pastor how easy it is to let the urgent get in the way of giving attention to what is important in the long term of things. Putting out this fire or dealing with that crisis, rather than giving constant attention to our mission, to “Ignite Faith and Witness God’s Love.” Why is that mission statement so important? Because we are about the business of leading people to Christ who is the way, the truth and the life, our salvation! What could be more important than that?

The Church’s liturgy calls us to set aside our busyness and to reflect seriously on where we are going. Every November, beginning with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, the readings and the prayers invite us to reflect on where we are going, on mystery of our life on earth, on our death that none of us can escape, and the eternal life for which we all hope. The more we realize on the gift of the transformation to which God calls us, the more we will make sure that we allow God to transform our words and actions so that they become a part of the journey to that complete transformation that we call heaven. When the priest places his hands over the gifts of bread and wine in the Eucharistic Prayer, on behalf of the entire Church, he calls for the Holy Spirit to transform these simple gifts, the fruit of the earth and work of human hands, into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, *so that we will be transformed to live more and more as members of his body*. The transformation begins now! It isn’t just for the next life. The transformation happens and every sacrament, which Abbot Jeremy Driscoll calls, the “masterpieces” of the Holy Spirit, beginning at Baptism and renewed again and again through the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I strongly encourage you take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, masterpiece of God’s mercy and forgiveness that our Parish will offer on Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Allow the Holy Spirit to transform you now so that all anxiety will give way to God’s peace, joy and love, which we will know fully at the eternal wedding feast of heaven.