

**Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time– Cycle C  
August 11, 2019**

**Christ the Good Shepherd, ORCC**

**Reflection by Father Charles Blanchard**

First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9

Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

Welcome to Christ the Good Shepherd! To our enduring parishioners and new found-friends, you are welcome to hear God's word and be nourished at this Table where there is no partiality.

Welcome home!

**¡bienvenidos a cristo el buen pastor!**

**A nuestros filigrees perdurables y nuevos amigos encontrados, son bienvenidos a escuchar la palabra de dios y ser nutridos en esta mesa donde no hay parcialidad.**

**Bienvenida a casa**

**My sisters and brothers, mis hermanas y hermanos, faith is the realization for what is hoped and evidence of things not seen.**

The Letter to the Hebrews gives us a good sense today's readings.

**Faith** is the dominant theme and **believing in what we have not seen** underlines our faith in our great God of Peace and Love.

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom gives us insights into **how to believe**.

For many of us, **it is a challenge** to believe that God is always with us and that in whatever happens (e.g., El Paso, Texas & Dayton, Ohio mass shootings; 600 ICE deportations & numerous abandoned children), God is present. Yet **our faith must bring us to that point over and over.**

My sisters and brothers, as people of faith, you and I cannot expect God to be a magician who makes everything wonderful. That is not the promise of our God.

Our God promises **to be with us; to help us in the struggle** against our foe; and **to shore us up always**, giving patient-endurance for life's journey.

In the end, **we will prevail, always**, but only at the spiritual level.

➤ ***If we keep our lives and lose our faith, we are lost; or***

➤ ***If we lose our lives and keep our faith, we are blessed, golden in God's eyes and loved immeasurably!***

The second reading is from the Letter to the Hebrews and gives us an account of the faith of Abraham, whom we call "our father in faith."

Abraham becomes a model for us to go on trusting. Abraham trusted over and over and eventually all that the Lord promised to him was completed.

God invites each of us **to follow Him in the foolishness of faith**, believing that loving and servicing God and our neighbors will bring us true happiness and also salvation.

If we can be still in the presence of God and hear His voice and follow Him, we too will have happiness in this life and in the next.

My sisters and brothers, the Gospel of Luke brings us back to the struggle to obey God.

Luke tells us "**where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.**"

We can ask ourselves: "**where is my heart, what is my treasure.**" Answering these questions will give us immense knowledge about ourselves, the direction of our lives and our faith's stability.

- ***We can find ourselves like the servant who decides that God is not going to come any time soon and so begins to live a life not in accordance with the God's word; or***
- ***We can be prudent servants who know that God can come at any moment and who then strive to be faithful.***

In the end, today's readings invite us to commit ourselves again to our great God of Peace and Love, remaining mindful of sisters and brothers; and to celebrate Memory Moments which pass our way.

You and I may not be perfect (e.g., by a show of hands, who here is perfect?) yet, but **we well know the road** and can keep walking by stiffening our spines and withstanding life's challenges and asserting patient-endurance.

Just as our ancestors knew that God loved them, so we also know that God loves us today, tomorrow and beyond.

**Walking in faith**, we allow this Peace and Love to shape our lives.

Following my homily, a celebratory Memory Moment will occur today as Christ the Good Shepherd Old Roman Catholic Church confirms two young persons who will

affirm faith's journey and all three young persons will receive their First Communion

**May our actions today become the realization for what is hoped and evidence of things not seen, faith-in-action!**

Gracias de Dios para todos!

May God's Peace and Love be with all of you!