

2020 July 05

Fourteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Time

Readings:

First: Zachariah 9.9-10, "And he shall command peace to the nations." (10b)

Psalm 145, "The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made" (9)

Second: Romans 8.9, 11-13, "You are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you." (9b)

The Gospel: Mathew 11.25-30, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (30)

Jesus is at the other end of the yoke!

We are inclined to seek rest, relief, and consolation; some seek it positively, others wish if something similar happen to them. However, what comes through human creation has limitations, not giving lasting satisfaction or enduring peace. It is because we are created with a spirit that has the longing and orientation for the everlasting, which comes only from the eternal God, and our ultimate longing is for that everlasting God.

Some hesitate to accept the existence of God or his constant presence in one's life. Even when without our awareness, and when do not want or oppose that presence, the Spirit of God, is certainly and definitively present in us. It is because we just belong to him, and he belongs to us. Hence it will be always good, rewarding, and highly consoling that we positively desire for his presence in our lives, and invite his action in us.

By offering his yoke to us Jesus agrees to carry with us our heavy burdens. Yoke is an instrument put on the shoulders of the beasts of burden, which often in pairs carry the yoke; that is we need often two animals to pull one yoke. When Jesus offers his yoke to us to carry he definitely is at the other end to carry it with us! By having him to share it with us he makes it light for us. Since he is also the everlasting God, and the Almighty, the consolation and comfort that comes from him and his presence will be everlasting and enduring. How sweet is his invitation to us!

Jesus gives thanks to the Father who had revealed the secrets of the kingdom to the children hiding them from the 'wise and the intelligent'. Jesus invites us to jump into the bandwagon of the innocent and the infants, casting off our pretense of knowing everything including 'the absence or non-existence' of God, which is the presumption of the so-called wise and the intelligent. In God's carriage we will grasp the prophecy of Zechariah, "*Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*" (Zachariah 9.9) Our king and Savior, the Almighty, is humble and simple, to which simplicity he invites us that we may know him and enjoy the blessings he pours on us. It is this Lord we celebrate in today's psalm who is "*gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*" (Psalm 145.8) It is in his Spirit that we dwell about which St. Paul speaks today. (Romans 8.9-11)

Fr. George

