

Monday 10th Week Ordinary Time June 12, 2017 St. Agnes Church

The world has changed. The old order has passed away; a new order has been set into place.
Those who embrace the new order of things are blessed.
The old order is one of sin; the new order is one of grace.
The presence and action of Jesus Christ marks the dawning of this new era in Salvation History.
Those who listen to him and follow him are welcomed into his Kingdom.

In this new era, God provides comfort. God fills the empty with good things.
God shows mercy. And God summons, calls forth His people to witness to His love.
In this new era, God shows tenderness and care to the weak and the needy.
God blesses those who chose divine service over financial advantage;
he blesses those who remain detached from worldly gain
so as to avoid neglecting their relationship with Him and to keep themselves available to serve the poor.

Those who embrace Jesus Christ, who live within the new light of redemption
will mourn as they see evil and darkness where there could be goodness and truth.
They will grieve for what is lost and weep for the absence of what they know God wants to be.
But they will also rejoice in hopefulness as justice is served, as loyalty is given to God's commands,
as true worship is celebrated, and as covenant faithfulness is promoted.

Like the Israelites who were tempted during their difficult sojourn through the desert
to turn back and return to their old life of slavery in Egypt
we are tempted to return to the old life of sin....
we are tempted to step across the boundary between the old and the new
and return to the comfortable, the familiar, the known.
We are tempted to sell our soul, to compromise our dignity, to let go of our integrity,
for the sake of fitting in...
only to find after the fact that the promise of the world is empty.
Material satisfaction, happiness founded in pleasure, is temporary at best.
We are tempted to hold on to the old as insurance...just in case the new doesn't work out.
We are tempted to straddle the line, keep one foot in two different realities.

The last thing we want to do as we live in the new era of Christian grace
is to walk through life with our heads in the clouds...
thinking that we are close to the Kingdom because heaven is up
and the clouds are higher than the ground
and so we must be moving in the right direction,
we must be getting closer to God, because our heads are in the clouds.

The Christian life must be lived with feet firm on the ground.
Life in God is life in the present. Grace is available to us in the present.
The new era of the rule of Christ is the present.
And in the present every decision is a crossroads....
for we have the freedom to choose for Christ or against Christ
as the future becomes the present and the present becomes the past.

If our heads are in the clouds, if we believe we are above what is happening in the world,
if we believe we are out of reach of what is happening in the world,
if we fail to consider what is happening in the world, avoid what is happening in the world,
then our decisions about what path to take in the next moment will be uninformed.
It is not possible to make the best decision if we don't know what the worst decision is.

Today's prayer: "O Lord, inspire me to heed Your encouragement as I navigate through space
and time. Help me to be here, in the present...to know Your love in the present so as to
appreciate the promise of knowing Your love for all eternity. Amen!"