



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY June 17 & BEYOND”

It's the Father's Kingdom: Ask for help to bring it about ...



Something that Christians have heard over and over in their bible reading, and in good teaching and preaching that comes from the Church, is that if we are going to do the good works that God calls us to do, and that **WE WANT** to “make this world a better place”, among other key tasks and objectives, is that these things will not – even cannot – be accomplished and maintained on our own strength. It is the strength of the

Lord working in and through us that will actually be accomplishing what “needs” to be done. God does, though, choose to work through us for His purposes. Now, **THAT** is a mystery, as they say. But given that it is His decision as the Ruler of all Creation, and the Lord of the Church, we then choose to work with Him, just as He has chosen to work through us. Our two primary symbols of our side of it are 1) our knees, and 2) our hands. Just like the old song written by Sammy Cahn and music by Jimmy Van Heusen, and introduced to the world by Frank Sinatra, “*Love and marriage, love and marriage, go together like a horse and carriage.....try to separate them, it's an illusion..*”, the work for the sake of the Church and the World will need us on our knees in prayer to God for His continuous flow of strength and recalibration along the way, as at the same time we are putting ourselves (our hands) to work – physically, emotionally, mentally – to also get the work accomplished. Otherwise, it won't work. We will be deluding ourselves.

From the Gospel of Mark reading from this Sunday (Proper 6) Jesus said, “*The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.*”

Do you hear? The parable points to the work that we do for the kingdom – in this case sowing and reaping – and yet some other force is at work to both germinate and to grow what has been planted! That would be God. The listener who is listening will want to accentuate that relationship with God by talking with Him and inviting Him and relying upon Him from the moment he considers sowing until the harvest is in the barn!

This should help us to understand a real problem. It is a problem the world has yet to grasp. Christians though should understand this, as I said, because they should have learned from scripture and teaching already. And this is what the Theme Prayer for Sunday, we call the Collect (the accent goes on the first syllable as we say the word for Church use: coll-ect), tells us to do and informs us of what happens if not:

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ.... Amen.

We see so much anger and frustration and destruction in the world, even in our own neighborhoods because of this very result: if you try to proclaim Kingdom truth with boldness, and if you try to minister justice with compassion, but do not rely on the Grace of God through Jesus Christ, you will fail, and you will become bitterly frustrated. And you may try to take things into your OWN hands without the reliance that comes from being on your knees. You may even cry out, “Where is that loving God!?” And the answer is, you forgot to rely upon Him.

Do you see some injustice in the world around you? Do you see some falsehood that needs to be addressed by truth? Then come to the foot of the cross of Christ first, on your knees. Look up and see what it looks like when true compassion and true boldness have been given to Truth and Justice. And knowing that this same Jesus on the Cross has brought VICTORY over untruth and injustice through that same compassion, boldness and grace of God’s, now rely on Him to help you work for the same. Look for His answers. Look for the answers already given! Look for His direction and guidance. And patiently wait for the strength you NEED to finally be given to you. It is His Kingdom we want to build.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY Willan West 2018 Celebration

Mass - Eve of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist