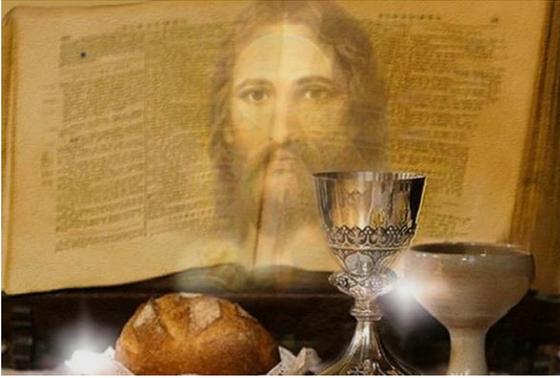




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY August 5 & BEYOND”

“Don’t Miss it” (regarding the Gospel of John, chapter 6, verses 22-51)



Even when you are trying to be alert to something happening, it’s possible you can miss it. Driving right by an exit off of the Freeway is common, even though you knew it was coming up. What was it? A momentary diversion caused by another driver getting into your lane? Looking over at the radio or CD player to change the station or disc, and then

looking up only to see the exit going by?

How about something much less momentary that you miss, even though you really don’t want to, like a celestial event, such as the variety of moons we’ve had this year. You wait until dusk, keep watching for that Super Moon, the one that only comes around every 100 years, don’t see it at all, and then realized you are in the wrong place looking at the wrong spot in the sky!

Or that movie you wanted to see; that sale you wanted to take advantage of; that person you wanted to talk to, and then you find out it or they has come, and gone right under your nose, and you missed it.

One of my least favorite activities is trying to discover where all those ants came from on my kitchen or bathroom counter. Just when I think I’ve got it figured out, cleared out all the other ants, and just standing there watching and waiting, and then nothing happens. So then I turn around looking at other places they might have come in, and come back to where I had been looking – and there’s another ant seemingly out of nowhere! Sneaky little things.

I don’t think at all that Jesus was trying to be sneaky, but something of the same “miss” happens in the Gospel lesson for this Sunday, August 5, 2018.

²² On the next day [after the feeding of the 5000] the people who remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ However, boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the people saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

They thought they knew where he would be, based on the previous day's event, but Jesus had moved on overnight. They missed him. Not satisfied with that, though, they kept looking, actually making a crossing of the Sea of Galilee in boats, and they found him. Then a strange thing happens. They demanded to know how Jesus had escaped their detection. Jesus, though, never misses a beat, he doesn't miss a thing; he knows what's going on in heads and hearts. And his response to them speaks to what he saw in them. "You missed it; the whole point."

He was referring to something even the apostles couldn't quite yet grasp. So the crowd was in good company in that sense. Remember, he had just fed 5000 men from a few loaves of bread and a couple fish. What Jesus hears from their hearts in this encounter about how he got there without their knowing, and their second quite astounding question in the face of the huge miracle, "What sign can you give us?" is their desire to control him and make use of him for their purposes. Yes, Jesus, the Son of God, the promised, empowered Messiah is right in front of them, and they missed it. They missed his purpose and mission. Still, His final response to them – quite on mission - will be "Don't miss this: "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."

There is good news here. First, by not "missing it", that being Jesus is the bread of life, we are promised an eternal life with him. But second, our Father in heaven promises that He is not and will never simply overlook us, like we do him. Every question, every hurt, every miss, He does not overlook, which is because He is God, after all, but also because He loves to show mercy. If you do "miss" Him somehow, at least do what the crowd did, even if with less than selfish motives, and go find him. He will allow himself to be found.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: **The Tenth 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)