



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY October 13 & BEYOND”

Appreciate God’s Grace while you have it!

Three years ago in 2016, for this week’s Gospel reflection, Father Steven Schuneman, a priest in the Diocese of San Diego who was assisting in various ways in All Saints’ parish, was invited to write the reflection. With a few additions here and there, I’m including his focus on a very simple issue that we must take account of in our lives: God is powerful and mighty, but we don’t always show our appreciation! Living a grace-filled life means recognizing the grace! - Fr. Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

Gratitude and grace are two words and themes that we see in the readings for this coming Sunday, October 13, 2019. They are important words as we come to understand our journey of faith in this life. If we hold them together, we can better come to appreciate the meaning of life and what is essential for us.

We find the word “grace” in the Collect of the Day (the Collect is the prayer that pulls together the themes of the day in scripture readings and calendar):



*“Lord, we pray that your **grace** may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works.”*

Perhaps the first thing we think of is “the grace” we say at meals, but the meaning of grace is so much deeper than that. We can try to comprehend it, but it’s definition will always allude us. And that is because grace comes to us through the Holy Spirit, Who is also “uncatchable.”

But let’s try anyway: Grace is the Love of God, freely given, unmerited and undeserved that we experience throughout our life. It has been said that everything is grace, a gift from God who loved us into being. To live a grace-filled life, does not mean superficially that you are one lucky person all the time! Absolutely, like in healing, grace from God is given to us. But the phrase is meant to refer to the person who so appreciates the presence of God in all things, even the hardest moments of their life. Grace surely is our salvation, faith, and healing; and grace-filled is to keep

on looking to God in thanksgiving no matter what gets in the way, being grateful in and for everything received, in every situation.

The Gospel reading (the Good News reading) for Sunday provides an amazing story that presents the horrible situation, the power of Jesus, the cry for mercy, and the lesson of how to handle good news.

There in Luke we will hear the story of the ten lepers that Jesus encounters on his ministry travels. Obviously to anyone, it is hard to find grace in their leprosy, a terrible disease that destroys body and soul. But, their encounter with Jesus is one of grace and healing. They call to Jesus, “Have mercy on us!” Now, most people would have nothing to do with lepers; they would not go near them, they would send them away, and quickly. Jesus sends them away, but he sends them healed of their disease! He sends them to the Temple priests in Jerusalem, who, according to the Law, alone can declare them clean again. For the lepers, grace is poured out like a waterfall, cleansing them from their disease. A powerful, but intended to be normal, Kingdom healing sign of God’s grace and love. They must have jumped for joy and run to show their families and friends.

The gospel tells us, though, that one man turned back. One man, when he saw that he was healed, turned back to Jesus, praising God for all that He had done. He fell at the feet of the Master, giving thanks for the grace of God. And as an additional layer to the profundity of this story, the man was a Samaritan. I encourage you to use your smart phone or computer to look up something like “Samaritans versus Jews” so you can understand the import of this moment. But briefly, he was not a Jew; he was an outcast living among outcasts. The story continues as Jesus cannot help but notice that ten were cleansed but only one returned to give thanks. How can that be?

I can imagine this quite easily. Grace, like the air we breathe, surrounds me every day. It always precedes and follows me. Wherever I go, I can know that grace has been there before me. I know that grace will follow me along every path of life..... and I forget every day. I forget to give thanks constantly for God’s grace and presence. I’m too busy, too preoccupied, to rush back to Jesus and give thanks to His Name. I may take a moment, but the moment passes too quickly. O God, help us to receive with joy and gratitude the gracious life and love that you bestow upon us each and every day. Amen.

Fr. Steve Shuneman (10/2016)

Readings for this Sunday – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ruth 1:1-19a Psalm 113 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19a

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00pm Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

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

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

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

FRIDAY AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

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

SUNDAY The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)