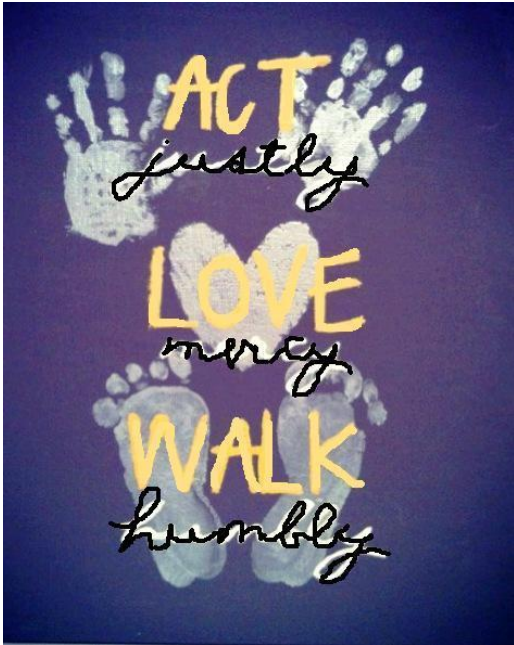




# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY October 27 & BEYOND**

**Walk Humbly (It is Good with the Lord!)**



The Gospel reading (the good news reading) that you will hear on Sunday, October 27, 2019, is one of the more familiar sayings of Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us at 8am or 10:30am, and you will hear it read in the context of another very pithy parable, short as it is.

Jesus tells of two men and where and when and how they pray. As the familiar saying implies, one man is being humble, and one is not. The kicker is that one is supposed to be a man of righteousness; but that's not the one that Jesus upholds and promises spiritual exaltation. It is the man who is being, contrite; a man who is considered spiritual scum because of his profession. The implication is that this man has recognized his sinful behavior, but has come to the Lord's presence to ask for mercy because he has sinned. And so Jesus will offer this last line to his parable, noting that the repentant, contrite sinner is the one whose humility will have the right kingdom effect:

"I tell you..., for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Of course, if the now justified, humble man were to turn to see the other man in the parable being arrogant and self-promoting, and then say about that man, "What a louse", he most likely would lose the exaltation kudos that Jesus was offering!!

Being humble, and then staying humble would be the message objective for long-term spiritual health.

I think Jesus' message of exaltation and humility is one of the truths that can be seen as of immense virtue (from the word for "strength") across the breadth of Humanity. It is not the work of faith that brings one into salvation for eternity; that is only found in turning one's life over, in believing fully, in the truth of Jesus as the promised Savior Messiah, and in His death and His resurrection. But it is a work that presents itself to God the Father for his judgement of Mercy for those who are not believers.

And in the acting out of being humble, you do a very important work of assisting the world around us to be a gentler, more peaceful, more just, place to be and live.

I am reminded of the story of Cyrus, King of Persia, (the land now known as Iran). The prophet, Jeremiah, had prophesied that Jerusalem would be conquered and captives taken away for seventy years. Babylon indeed conquered Jerusalem as Jeremiah prophesied. Then, in c.539 BC, King Cyrus defeated Babylon. The Lord God moved the King's heart and inspired him to let the Judeans return home. King Cyrus also ordered the Persian treasury to be opened to help rebuild the walls and the temple at Jerusalem, as well as the return of all the precious metal temple ornaments kept in Babylonian storage.

Here was a man who was not a Jew, much less a Christian, obviously, and an extremely powerful ruler, who showed mercy, and not a little of humility in his authority, to help God's people. Isn't that just the opposite of what happens historically, with both Jews AND Christians! You can read the main story at [Ezra 1:1-11](#) if you'd like. To dive in more deeply, do an internet search for "Babylonian Captivity."

Ours is the same, and certainly we are even commanded by the Lord God to be this kind of people, not looking down at others as worthy of condemnation. Rather, we are to consider others as worthy of the love that God made available to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And if someone who is not a disciple of Christ has that capacity – which they do, because God made them – then we can too.

Is it not clear that the world itself needs more people who are 1) humble, and 2) do not condemn the humble of the world as contemptible? May the Lord have mercy on us all!

Fr. Robert G. Eaton

Readings for this Sunday – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 14:1, 7-10, 19-22 Psalm 84:1-6 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

## CALENDAR

**SUNDAY: The Twentieth 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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)

**SATURDAY Societies of Mary Day of Devotion**

11:00am Rosary (St. Mary Chapel)

11:30am MASS (St. Mary Chapel)

Noon Potluck Lunch (Parish Hall)

**SUNDAY The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (All Saints Sunday)**

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)