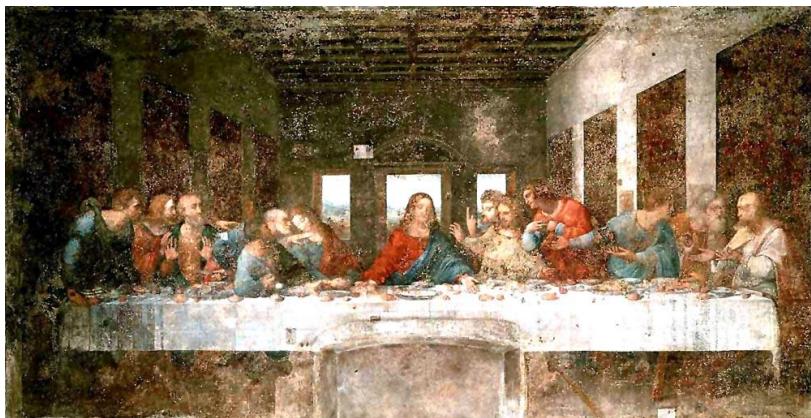




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY May 19 & BEYOND”

“DEALING WITH THE BETRAYALS IN OUR LIFE”



The Good News reading (the Gospel) for Sunday, May 19, 2019, at All Saints is a portion of Jesus' teaching at the Last Supper. And there is a lot of teaching that takes place, and teaching with direct action or

illustration. For instance, there is the washing of the feet of the apostles by Jesus himself. He has spoken of being a servant to all, and then he washes their feet, beginning with Peter. It is a fundamental teaching, of the priority of each of us to each other. In fact, Jesus said “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Probably the most famous of the teachings of Jesus at the Last Supper, he showed them bread and wine that he was now presenting to them as HIS body and HIS blood, and gave it to them as He made it so, and to remember him always. And then there is this word from Jesus, “At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him."

I spent some time this week thinking about the word of Jesus about being glorified, and how that might be as important a teaching as the servant leaders, and as the abiding presence of Jesus Christ in the consecrated bread and wine. What I eventually came to see was the counter-intuitive part of each: a leader who washes his followers' feet; bread and wine that taste like bread and wine but which have become the most powerful food on earth – the spiritual food of the Body and Blood of Jesus. And now the glorification of the Son of Man proclaimed, but only after Judas Iscariot “had gone out”, in fact to lead Jesus’ captors to him. How is that possibly glorification?

You may have found yourself in a situation, on either the good side of it, or the bad side of it, where the context didn’t warrant the eventual good purpose of it. Jesus was no different. And if we can understand this particular one, with Judas’ action

being the thing that Jesus uses, in order to proclaim being glorified, then we might be able to follow Jesus' lead in teaching, and do the same.

So, are we to look for betraying people to be placed into our lives, in order to learn something from their act of betrayal toward US? No, that's not it. Jesus didn't need to learn anything else about who He was and where He came from, and where He was going. Is it the lesson that when life hands you lemons, make lemonade?? No, because this was not just a random act. Jesus didn't need to look for a silver lining in a dark cloud. The very straightforward words of Jesus following the departure of Judas are quite stark, and very much connected.....Judas leaves, and then Jesus says out loud, "NOW the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him."

Let's try it another way. What do we see Jesus doing about Judas? How's that, you say? Well, Jesus knows what happened to Judas in the sense of both Judas allowing Satan to influence his actions, and Jesus knows about the payment Judas agreed to receive. And Jesus knows Before this moment arrives in the departure of Judas. So, what did Jesus do about Judas? What we do know is that Jesus did not use his power and authority to "remove" Judas from his life. What Jesus did was to let Judas do what he was going to do. And Jesus knew that allowing Judas to do what he was going to do would lead to his arrest and crucifixion, his death. And above all, if we need to apply some kind of justification for Jesus' behavior or lack of behavior toward Judas, it would be this: Jesus knew that this betrayal was necessary in order to fulfill God's plan for salvation. Jesus, who walked through a crowd of People who wanted to throw him off a cliff; this Jesus, who avoided arrest at any other time in his three years of ministry; this Jesus, who by revelation in a dream to his adoptive father Joseph avoided being slaughtered by Herod's troops in Bethlehem at his birth; this Jesus now knows that the time for this act of betrayal, "that the Son of Man will be betrayed and placed into the hands of men", is the right time.

How can we possibly learn something of such magnitude for our own lives, the way we deal with our own detractors and enemies, and those seemingly out to take us down in some way? Of course, this happens in a similar way all the time for those who serve humanity on the dangerous edge of life: military men and women, first responders, the normal duty dangers of those who protect and serve us. And often unto death.

For the rest of us, we should see how we ourselves glorify God by turning the other cheek, by the patience of Job, by loving – truly loving – our enemies, by praying for the hearts of our enemies and detractors to turn, to be willing to suffer for Christ's sake in our witness and testimony, and if we know it, which we can, to not turn from

the mission that God has given to US, knowing in fact that the Enemy will place people into our path to move us off center and off focus.

This is not a succinct teaching; but it is a call to follow the same way as Jesus. And so, Jesus shares this moment with his disciples, just as he did with the washing of feet, and the sharing of his body and blood. And with these actions within our spiritual arsenal, if you will, the glory of God the Father will be shining upon us as well.

The words of Jesus' teaching about our strength in the Holy Comforter found in a hymn come to mind,

"Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life anew; that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou dost do." [\(click here for music and two verses\)](#)

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fifth Sunday after Easter

Acts 13:44-52 Psalm 145:1-9 Revelation 19:1, 4-9 John 13:31-35

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Fifth Sunday after Easter

8:30a Low Mass (Church)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*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 Sixth Sunday after Easter
 8:00am Low Mass
 10:30am Solemn Mass