

LIVING THE WORD

- The Exodus story teaches us about our covenant relationship with God. Each time the people grumbled, Moses prayed to God, and God responded faithfully to his covenant love commitment. Remember that the first reading is chosen to highlight the Gospel reading: John 6 and Exodus both reflect on the meaning of the Jewish Passover. The treasured memory of God feeding his people with manna (literally from the word 'man hu' meaning 'what is this?') was an essential part of the Passover celebration. Rather ungratefully, God's people continually grumbled. Do I grumble frequently against 'Moses and Aaron ...' How could I speak words of 'affirmation'? How could I practise gratefulness for the 'daily feeding' by God of every gift and blessing?
- Parts of the Letter to the Ephesians are prayers used at Baptisms in the early Church community. A colourful image is pointed to in the Baptism ceremony. In ancient times one's clothing was considered part of oneself. In the ceremony you took off your old clothes and put on a new white garment. Your old self was put aside. Your new self is the life of Christ. Your new lifestyle is as a citizen of Heaven, not a citizen of Rome. How could you show righteousness, holiness and truth more in your life? Amongst your family? At work?
- Last week we began 5 weeks of hearing the Gospel of John, Chapter 6. It is important to notice the context of John 6. The famous 'Bread of Life' passage is the second of three Passover celebrations in the Gospel of John. At each Passover, Jesus replaces the Passover with his own 'Body' (see John 2, 6, 19). Last week the crowd tried to take Jesus away to make him 'King' because there was a Jewish expectation (2 Baruch 29:3,18) that there would be a miraculous feeding with bread from heaven which would reveal the promised Messiah. Jesus comments to the crowd that they are only looking and working for food to fill their bellies. He promises something greater. Can you understand what Jesus is doing when he claims he is the 'Son of Man', the one on whom the Father, God, has 'set his seal'? What does it mean if you 'set your seal' upon your letter, object ...?
- The crowd asks for proof from Jesus that he is better than Moses, who fed Israel with manna in the desert. Jesus responds using a very important phrase: **'I AM the Bread of Life'**. **'I AM'** is the divine name, given by God to Moses in Ex 3,16. Jesus reminds the crowd that it was God, not Moses, who fed his people, and in fact, **I AM** is standing right in front of you.
- The Gospel of John often requires the reader to step down into deeper levels of meaning. 'Never hungry' and 'never thirsty' point to a physical hunger and invite the reader to recognise a deeper spiritual hunger and thirst for life. Beyond feeding your body and satisfying your thirst, what do you *really* live for? What is 'life' for?
- Many people came seeking Jesus but they did not want to follow him. Jesus will soon make the connection that He is and will become the 'Bread of God' from Heaven which gives life. He will do this with the gift of his Body and Blood on the cross, which will be received in the celebration of the Mass (John 6, 55). Do you 'see' that you truly receive Jesus at Mass? Do you 'seek' **and** 'follow' Jesus?

Recently, I was asked what is meant by 'not being in the state of grace'? I gave a short, routine answer, but later thought about it again and searched for a more in-depth response. So I discovered Fr Michael Kerper, who responded to the same question in the positive. I share from what he wrote.

—John P Murray osa

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN THE STATE OF GRACE? (*Parable, 2012*)

"This great question leads us to examine two crucial matters. First, how should Christians understand their human condition on earth? And second, what is the connection between the earthly lives of human beings and their only possible outcomes: endless happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life (Heaven) or the perpetual anguish caused by freely choosing something other than God (Hell)?

Let's begin by correcting one terrible — but very common — misunderstanding. Many people define the "state of grace" as the absence of mortal sin. Yes, grave sin is incompatible with the "state of grace", but this minimalistic understanding is akin to saying, *"I've been hugely successful in life because I've never gone to jail."* There's more to life than not getting convicted of crimes; and there's much more to the "state of grace" than avoiding mortal sin.

To grasp the beauty of living in the "state of grace," we need a clear definition of "grace". Simply — and, shockingly — put, "grace" is God! Allow me to refine this idea: "Grace" is God in that God freely communicates himself to human beings, thereby enabling human beings to become like God. Grace actually transforms human beings into "gods" by adoption. This sounds bizarre, even heretical, but the New Testament boldly proposes this idea, and many Greek speaking Church Fathers spoke of the "deification" of human beings.

How does this work? Through sanctifying grace, which is uncreated, God draws close to us, even to the point of union, somewhat like the marriage of a man and woman. The presence of this "grace" — God's own life — restores us to God's own "image and likeness", thereby empowering us to become truly "God-like", notably through mercy and love. Moreover, "grace" draws us into the life of the Trinity.

The "state of grace" is not just the absence of sin; it's also the amazing opportunity to live fully as a "deified" child of God, sharing fully in God's life now and forever. Leon Bloy, the great French Catholic writer who died in 1917, once said, "The only true tragedy is not to become a saint" Surely, this tragedy happens if we fall from the "state of grace." But it is also tragic to remain just in the "state of grace" without fulfilling all the amazing possibilities that grace provides."



CALENDAR

MONDAY

August 5
Weekday
Jer 28:1-17
Mt 14:13-21

TUESDAY

August 6
Transfiguration
of the Lord
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Pt 1:16-19
Mk 9:2-10

WEDNESDAY

August 7
Weekday
Jer 31:1-7
Mt 15:21-28

THURSDAY

August 8
St. Dominic, Priest
Jer 31:31-34
Mt 16:13-23

FRIDAY

August 9
Weekday
Na 2:1, 3;
3:1-3, 6-7
Mt 16:24-28

SATURDAY

August 10
St. Lawrence,
Deacon and
Martyr
2 Cor 9:6-10
Jn 12:24-26

SUNDAY

August 11
Nineteenth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 19:4-8
Eph 4:30-5:2
Jn 6:41-51

COMMUNION

We are the Body of Christ. This is who we are as Church. It is our profound mystery that we take and eat, take and drink at Communion. In doing so, we give expression to our identity.

If we are not in communion with the Catholic Church, it makes no logical sense for those to receive because simply, it is not their identity.

If you are Buddhist, from another Christian tradition or just our welcome guest, please feel free to come forward, not to receive communion but to ask for a blessing.

The simple practice of asking for a blessing is through the bodily posture of bowing one's head and crossing one's arms across one's chest when before the minister distributing communion.

If you are a parent with a child not receiving Communion, please take personal responsibility in asking the minister for a blessing for your child.

John P. Murray osa
Pastoral Leader, 10 am Mass Community

Our website:
www.assumptioncathedralbkk.org

ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

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Rev. Ignatius Adisak Somsaengsuang

ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Peter Booncharat Suksawang
Rev. Francis Xavier Akranon Kitcharoen

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon-Fri : Thai 06:00 hrs.
Sat : Thai 06:00; 17:00 novena followed by
mass
Sun : Thai 07:00; 08:30 and 17:00 hrs.
English 10:00 hrs.

BAPTISM:

Thai : **First Sunday** during 8:30 am mass.
English : **Second Sunday** during 10:00 am
mass.

CONFESSION:

Sundays : Before all masses (Thai).
English before 10:00 am mass.

CATHOLIC CENTER:

For religious articles, please visit the center opposite
the entrance of the Cathedral.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri : 08:30 – 17:00 hrs.
Sat, Sun : Closed
& public holidays

Dear Padre

August 4, 2024

Are Catholic statues the same as "graven images"?

God forbade the making of idols, images of false gods (Exodus 20:4-5). But God did not forbid the making of all images. Images of cherubim were placed on the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 37:7-9), and the Book of Numbers tells how God commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole as a sign of healing (Numbers 21:7-9).

Not only is the making of images or representations of people not forbidden by God, it is so common that we take it for granted. People keep photographs of those they love. In the same way, we Catholics love the saints as family members who have gone before us, and we keep images of them in our homes and churches.

Catholics do not worship the saints; we worship and adore God alone. But we do honor the saints, remembering their holy lives as we try to imitate them. There is nothing unusual about keeping statues and paintings in prominent places. Many cities display statues of leaders and important citizens. If we are given only secular models to imitate, we will be denied models who can guide us to Jesus and to eternal life. Images of the saints are reminders of God's grace and goodness fleshed out in the lives of people very much like us. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

DOXOLOGY PLEASE STAND

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN

Amen. Amen. Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (No. 387)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil; graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (2)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. **PLEASE KNEEL**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (No. 945)

FINAL: ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS (No. 949) PLEASE STAND

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Sunday, 4 August 2024

ENTRANCE: PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING (No. 861) PLEASE STAND

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Priest: I confess to almighty God,

All: and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;

— and, striking their breast, they say —

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

KYRIE, ELEISON / LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kýrie, eléison, (2); Christe, eléison, (2); Kýrie, eléison, (2).

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace on earth, peace to people of good will.

1. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
2. Lord, Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand, the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. (R)

FIRST READING: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "Would that we had died at the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!"

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not.

"I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God."

In the evening quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, "What is this?" for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 78: THE LORD GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN



R. The Lord gave them [bread,] bread from heav - en.

1. What we have heard and know, and what our fathers have declared to us, We will declare to the generation to come the glorious deeds of the LORD and his strength and the wonders that he wrought. (R)
2. He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven; he rained manna upon them for food and gave them heavenly bread. (R)
3. Man ate the bread of angels, food he sent them in abundance. And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountains his right hand had won. (R)

SECOND READING: Eph 4:17, 20-24

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

Brothers and sisters: I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; that is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA: PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**

GOSPEL: Jn 6:24-35

Priest: The Lord be with you.

Priest: A reading from the Good News according to John.

All: And with your spirit.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*" So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

THE APOSTLES' CREED PLEASE STAND

Priest: I believe in God,

All: the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

"Lord, hear our prayer."

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: OPEN MY EYES (No. 651)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.