**19th Sunday Ordinary Time, Cycle. C. 2025.**

**Faith is the foundation of our Christian life and trust rooted in experience is the heart of our faith. Hence we must be convinced of the need for a living, true and active fa**ith. Even more today when the difficulties are so much greater, it is not enough to have a vague, weak and uncertain faith, made up of theories, doubts and reservations. Nor is it enough to hold a faith which just accepts what it pleases or which seeks to avoid difficulties by denying assent to truths which themselves are both difficult and mysterious”. Truth cannot be compromised.

 **The letter to the Hebrews brings Abrah**am into focus as a model of faith. Abraham had become an old man “***who was already as good as dead”***. His wife had passed the age of child- bearing long years ago. For this nomadic couple, the prospect of having children was very bleak. But their faith inspired them to believe in what they could not see and were incapable of by themselves. They acted on that vision of faith and they were rewarded with a son. They set out for a land ***“without knowing where they were going”.*** Abraham always looked beyond what he could see. He looked to **another city of which the founder, the architect and builder was G**od. Throughout his **life journey** he looked to another time and place as a true homeland where he could settle. It was **this deep faith that enabled him to da**re.

**Oath, promise, assurance are the key words of today’s liturgy**. God took an oath, made a promise, gave an assurance that He would be with His people. The Judeo-Christian religion is based on this promise. **Love, faith, trust, hope and joy in this God of promise is the stuff of this** religion. A true follower of this religion can be free from fear and anxiety because he rests securely on a reliable promise. So Jesus in today’s Gospel gives us the good news: “***Fear not, little flock for it is your fathers’ good pleasure to give you the kingdom”.*** It is a gracious gift, a precious promise. We are the little flock of Jesus. We can live by faith, in hope, joy and serenity. Or do we want to lead a worn-out, fear-ridden, anxious life? The choice is ours. What a tremendous choice!

**We are living in a world where there are more questions than answers, more problems than solutio**ns. We hear of violent demonstrations, agitations, riots, terrorism and the like in different parts of the world. In the midst of all these events, questions are raised: **Where is God**? **Is He really present in history? Does he speak to us? What does He say? How can we recognize him?** Today’s readings give us the answers to the above questions, **not merely by reason but by faith**. Faith is not certainty in the sense of knowing every answer. Faith is trust-trusting God even when the road ahead is hidden. **That’s’ har**d. We often **want GPS-style clarity**. Abraham had a promise, not a map. But he believed that God is faithful, and so he **walked with Him**. How about us? Are we walking in faith or sitting back, waiting for every detail to make sense before we move?

The most severe test for Abraham came when he was told by God to offer Isaac, his only son in sacrifice. Consider the demands that faith makes. Isaac was the fulfillment of a promise God had made to the Patriarch and his wife. But he did not murmur or question why. He did as the Lord commanded and lived in peace without fear because he trusted in the Lord.

**In the Second Reading today** taken from the **Letter to the Hebrews,** faith is indeed, the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. It is a call and a challenge to believe even if all evidence is to be contrary and things do not seem to go the way we want. It is a call and a challenge to persevere, even we are tempted to give up because the road ahead is too steep and the going too difficult. Just as God was faithful to his promises to Israel and to Abraham, and Jesus was faithful to his promises to his disciples, so God also will be faithful to us.

**Today Jesus calls us to a deeper and active fa**ith. If our faith is strong enough, nothing can shake us. No matter what is asked of us, we believe in the Lord who promised us the kingdom, and we respond from the deepest longing of our heart. We know He will be faithful, for He is the Lord.