

Of course, everyone knows what today is: Jubilate. *Jubilate Deo omnis terra*. Introit, Ps. 66, **Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth**. How this Sunday gets its name. Also from the Early Church, the Gospel appointed this day, Jesus speaking of childbirth, coincides with what you Americans invented a little over 100 years ago, Mother's Day.

Our Lord explains what life for you Christian in this fallen world: **You will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice**. For true Christians are seen as the enemies of the world, the haters, the phobic, the unloving. We do not join the world in their acceptance of false gods. We do not conform to the world's standards of morality. Why our Lord says, **the world will hate you, they sing when we cry, when we sing, they cry. In the world, but not be of the world**. And yet our enemies, the world, the flesh the devil hate it when you're joyous in Christ; they are hell bent on taking that joy from you with deception and lies to suit your pleasures, redefine the body and marriage, sacredness of all life, fill your days with temptations that all seem harmless.

Jesus teaches those disciples, teaches you, **a little while. A little while**, a call for trust, for patience, a faith that rests in Jesus during temporary hardship. That's a problem I have with you Americans. You have no patience. Of course, I don't think anyone who knows me has ever accused me of being patience. God help us all. Patience, a virtue, a matter of trust and contentment in the Lord. We're so often driving by our sinful impulses to lash out or despair, how often anxiety in our minds over so many things that actually do not ever take place. **A little while**. Who has time for that? You do. Be patient. Trust His Word. He keeps His Word. Our Lord gives this comfort, this promise, this doctrine to the Disciples the night He's betrayed, and institutes His supper, preparing them for what they'll go through; what you go through no less.

You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. Jesus is talking about faith. Joy is the inevitable, immediate, constant response of faith. Miracle of joy in a childbirth, your mother, the most apt illustration -your Lord gives- the beautiful example of Christian suffering in the world. Your life is dangerous, sorrows hit, suffering yet the Lord uses it to form you to be His child, to draw you closer to Him. How He works in life, in sorrows, joys.

Mothers who gave up their sons 'a little while' for the WW2, had overwhelming joy 80 years ago this past week as it ended in Europe. It's hard to comprehend what those mothers went through, then joy their sons survived the war, coming home soon. But not all, some mothers will live in mourning, sorrow, have to wait, even more, a little while. Yet even in midst of

the hurt, as Jesus commends the disciples, even during **a little while**, you still live in my promises. It's just temporary, until those Christian moms would embrace their sons again in heaven and not let go for all eternity. You live with His promise He works all things for your good in suffering, sorrows, and you have eternity. How can you not have His joy each day?

Like a young man at military bootcamp or special forces training. Even in the struggles if he wrote his mom thinking about quitting, she knows it will be for his good. When its over, graduates, he doesn't say, "I wish it was easier" but recognizes the sorrows, hardships formed him to be the man, the soldier he is. You don't have soldiers wish it was easier, in fact old soldiers will get mad if the younger ones have it easier. They know.

Your sorrows that way too, even though your life may be unpleasant, can be very unpleasant, whatever you go through. Your God does not suffer and die for you and count the hairs on your head and not pay attention to your life. And what He allows to happen. Everyone suffering, sorrows are unique, to each of you; but no one is getting through this life unscathed. You have no idea all the person next to you in the pew has gone thru, is going through, will have to endure. Always be compassionate. Life is hard on everyone.

We so easily are prey for self-pity or despair. We easily give into pessimism, negativity, criticism, or very dangerous apathy, and worry over 99% of things that never happen- stop it. This is rooted so often in a lack of faith and neglecting your Lord's promises. Take heart in joy that's yours. It's different among us; the Lord promises to use all things for your good. God will always use your sorrows, suffering in your life even greater, for your good, to form you as His child, that you have His very promise He will work all things -especially your sorrows, whatever you endure, for your good.

So do not despair in sorrows, in betrayals, in lies, family divided, hardships. Do not despair in whatever your failures and loved ones who've hurt you. We all get worn out, times we are spent. We've not treated our mothers as we should; haven't treated women as we should. Amid it all, God makes a promise. He is your forgiveness and comfort and peace, not small things but change your entire reality. When has He ever failed you?

Joy even in the midst of your sadness, for your joy is anchored to something deeper, something more certain any our daily circumstances, something that never changes and is eternal. He is yours. And no one and nothing can change that, can take away your joy, His resurrected life in you, poured out this day. Dear saints. You belong to Him. He holds your lot. He will see to your good. He is your life, do not cease Jubilate, to **make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth.**