

On this day, we honor our mothers. For we came to life in their wombs, nourished us from the very beginning. In many cases, our mothers were the first to speak the name of Jesus, read the Word of God to us; and bring us to our birth in Holy Baptism.

In addition to our earthly mothers, we honor our spiritual mother: the church. We're birthed eternally from the womb of the baptismal font; nourished the milk of the Word from our churchly mother. St. Cyprian, a pastor, Church Father born a generation after the death of the last apostle, taught: "No one can have God for his Father, who does not have the church for his mother." Of course the Scriptures are filled with the Church as a woman, a bride, thus we are to honor our Lord's creation, gift.

We need pure doctrine and we need each other. What God has made us for, to live in mother church, a community of saints. For the pure doctrine and Holy Spirit of truth, the Helper who without there is no life.

We need pure doctrine, truth, to see rightly our reality and to know the world we live in. To know what real life, true love, freedom, forgiveness, what truth -is.

Jesus Christ tells the disciples what will happen. The Church suffers hatred and persecution. Those who do so will think they're doing good, even for God. They will attack how Christian lives, what we accept as truth; that we aren't loving enough, tolerance enough, not being good neighbors because we won't embrace their world view. Comes from the world but also inside the church; You're not being winsome enough; you're not being sensitive to the spirit of the age. You're out of touch, old-fashion, too zealous for your truth, this place, and your God.

They hated the theology of Jesus, why would they not hate your theology as well. They just simply know that they do not like what you stand for and they want you to conform to their standard. Embrace their gods of the body, of the climate, of science and so on. You will not dance to their tune and that -is an unforgivable sin. So you should be silenced, labeled extremist, marginalized and eliminated from public life. You should be canceled for denying their truths, their science, their language.

In response to this, God has given us something so great, so powerful to sustain the church and your life. The objective, holy truth of the Bible. To know truth, wisdom, how to view all things of beauty, virtue. The Bible can help us see that often when the word 'love' "health care' or 'science' is invoked simply a rhetorical device meant to tell us to shut up, define outside of God and centered on the idolatry of man. But for that necessary to recognize the world we're living in, the Bible gives you Jesus, life, and the only solution to hatred and the world.

Thus the Lord tells them, you, you must have help. The Holy Spirit, which is only known, only works through the Scriptures. To know the Christ. Who God is, our need, recognize our sin and hopelessness.

The Holy Spirit working through Scripture to work upon us, and unto a world living in delusion and darkness. The freedom in the true Gospel to unlock their chains and to bring people out into the light; not simply for a more accurate worldview but actually to bring them into the presence of Christ, to know joy and love and live now in His kingdom.

It is precisely in this church, our mother, that St. Peter writes of our lives together. He invokes **love covers a multitude of sins**; he is speaking of, living in doctrine, how you are to live. Not that our love atones for sins but the forgiven must love and forgive. Peter is quoting Proverbs, **hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins**. That you are **to be serious and watchful in our prayers, fervent love for one another, looking past each other's faults and weaknesses; not holding grudges, acting in hospitality, each using his gifts for the good of others**. That is how people are to describe you. How you are known. Explaining everything in the kindest way and disciplining our flesh. Show so compassion because there is so much going on you do not know; you have no idea what the other person has gone through or what they are dealing with. You get upset with others, like someone cuts you off in traffic, maybe they're on their phone and texting or just an inconsiderate jerk, but perhaps they're grandmother died yesterday, maybe they just left their dying mom or their spouse just beat the heck out of them or left them or their distracted thinking of their addicted, regardless, you pray for them. What Peter points out, live with compassion, how we must treat each other. It's what you are called to be. Honor your mother, honor your Lord.

We need each other. Most have suffered family, friends, job, opportunities due to the hatred our Lord speaks. On top of that we all know difficulties. Every one of us suffers, knows pain. We all have stories. We've all been betrayed, neglected, or hurt by those we love. On top of that difficulties in holy marriage; difficulties with children; difficulties bills; difficulty with physical health, with mental health. We're all broken people and we behave badly.

So the Lord the night our Lord betrayed, considers you sitting there. The Holy Spirit comes to work upon you. Using Scripture, and consider Ezekiel bringing God's very word: **The Lord himself, I am to act, bring the nations, gather you, by My holy name, sprinkle you with water, cleanse you, make you clean, give you a new heart, a new Spirit, my Spirit I put in you**. Yes, Ezekiel is writing of your baptism and life. You are the baptized. **Dwell in this land** given by the Father. Live intentionally Christian, for the days are gone so fast.

We need each other. We need pure doctrine. What the Holy Spirit wants for us. How you are to live in a church, unto others. Not only be forgiven but also to be forgiving, speaking truth, showing compassion, this is what makes for a blessed, good life. We have a mother. God help us to live, honor as you have been called.