**“Water”**

All our readings point us to the word “Water.” Ordinarily, for us to stay alive, water is very critical. 70% of our bodies is water. It helps us quench our bodily thirst. It is estimated humans can only live without water for three days. All living things are dependent on water. It comes to the earth as rain. Even though it exists on earth with the same chemical elements of Hydrogen and Oxygen, water exists in three different forms. It exits as liquid or water, solid or ice, and vapor or steam. It produces different effects on all leaving things. Water adapts itself to the needs of every living thing. God made water so essential to life that it is what is searched for by Scientists when looking for life on other planets. Because, where there is water, there will be life.

As good as water is for us, we also have the other side of water that shows us the awesome power of God. We have all heard about the flood during the time of Noah when God used water to almost wipe out created being except for Noah, his family, and all the living things God told him to take with him in the boat. We see or hear about the effects of water in floods. We can look at California that suffered from drought for many years but now, most part of the State is being flooded by rain and several lives are being lost. We might have seen mudslides that happens when hill sides are saturated with water, how the side of the hill would come crashing down destroying everything in its path. What all these should remind us of, is the mighty power of God.

Just as water exist in one form and could accomplish many functions in our lives, on a supernatural level, so could the Holy Spirit whose nature is always the same. He can pour out more grace into our lives than we can imagine if we allow Him by surrendering our freewill. The Holy Spirit is indivisible and gives us His grace as He wills. Like a dying tree will put out more shoots when watered, so will our soul sock more grace from the Holy Spirit for our holiness when we repent and are worthy to receive the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are numerous though the Holy Spirit never changes.

The Spirit can make one person a teacher of authentic divine truth, another may receive the gift of prophecy, another, gift to cast out demons, another to interpret Scripture, and another gift of self-control, another the grace to help the poor, another, gift to fast and live a life of asceticism, another deprivation of the needs of the body. His action is different in everyone. But like ordinary water which serves many functions and remain the same, so does the Holy Spirit remain unchanging by the will of God and in the name of Christ, as He serves each person for the common good of the body of Christ.

In our first reading, from the Book of Exodus, we heard how in the desert, the Jews accused Moses of trying to kill them of thirst by not providing them water to quench their thirst. At that moment, they would rather be slaves in Egypt than trust in God who with mighty power performed many amazing wonders at the expense of the Egyptians to free them from slavery. They did not trust Him to take care of them. They did not believe in Him as their God who would always love them. So it is with us. We do not look back to remember what God had done for us in the past and put our trust in Him, believing that He will take care of all our needs if we believe and trust in Him.

God in His mercy and compassion responded by telling Moses to strike a rock in the presence of the elders. Saint Paul says: “**and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ”** (1 Cor. 10:4). They wanted to see what God would do for them that very day and not remember what He did in the past. One wonders why God waited until they cried out for water before He gave them water to drink! It was probably because He wanted them to learn perseverance and trust in Him. The same goes for us when God does not answer some of our prayers at the very time we wanted an answer. He wants us to learn to trust Him through suffering which produces endurance. In making us wait, we wait for the timing of our Lord.

In the letter of St. Paul to the Romans. He reminded us that through faith in God, we will have peace and be justified by our faith in Jesus Christ. It is through the grace that comes from the Holy Spirit that we have the faith that is acceptable to God. Through water and the Holy Spirit, we are renewed by baptism, from our deformed state. The Spirit restores us to our original beauty and fill us with His grace. The Spirit frees us from sin and death and bring us into the presence of God as shares in His divine glory. He changes our state in life from earthly being into spiritual being so we can share in the divine glory of God and destined to reign with Him.

Our hope is in the Lord who made heaven and earth. When it comes to God, hope in Him does not disappoint because the love of God has being poured out like running water into our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our hope is in Christ as we await the grace of His ministry. The grace that comes as our salvation. He who came to save us by dying a pitiable death on the cross came when we were sinners and separated from God. It is through His immense love for us that He laid down His life so we can be saved. When we are beaten down by life, we should remember what He did for us and rejoice that we are saved as believers in Him.

In our Gospel reading today, we have a beautiful story of conversion of the heart of a woman who unknowingly dialogued with Jesus about her life. As we heard, Jesus was tired and sat alone at a well while His disciples went to town to buy food. The scene then introduced a Samaritan woman who came for water during the hottest part of the day. One reason why she came at noon was, to avoid meeting other women who might muck or look down on her because of her lifestyle. Another possibility could be because it would be a good time to meet tired travelers (men) who would like to take a break during the hottest part of the day. It is called making a pit stop.

The dialogue started with Jesus asking her **“Give me a drink.”** not of bourbon or whiskey, but of water. The woman was shocked that Jesus a Jew would ask her a Samaritan for a drink thereby use her utensil. It was even more shocking to her, because Jews and Samaritans were not friendly with each other. Jews saw Samaritans as outcasts. Why? You see, when the Assyrians conquered the Jews, they took the strongest people to Assyria and left the weak or remnants behind. They then brought in their own people to mix and intermarry with the remnants. It was also a way to control the remnants. So to Jews, Samaritans were contaminated by foreign culture and therefore no longer pure Jews.

Then Jesus started to draw her into a deeper spiritual conversation by telling her that if she knew who He is, she would ask Him for a drink instead. His drink would be “living water” that would not make her thirsty again. The thirst Jesus was referring to was for purity and not for natural water. The woman then responded by asking for the water. Jesus then changed the subject by asking her to go and bring her husband. To which she responded that she had no husband. Jesus then told her she had had 5 husbands and that she was shacking up with the man she was with now. This opened her eyes to the fact that Jesus must be a prophet.

Then like those who are uncomfortable with their past, she changed the subject to the coming of the Messiah. Jesus who did not come out to the authorities when asked if He is the Messiah told her that He is the Messiah. The woman was no longer interested in drawing water, she was more interested in letting the people of her town whom she was avoiding know that she knew something they did not know. Her encounter with Jesus embolden her and her shame was wiped away. It is the same with us, when we really encounter Jesus, we will become new men and women. We will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and turn our life around to follow Him. God thirst for us. He is always saying to us, come to me the source of the living water, and you will be satisfied and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

As we come with utmost reverence to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask Him for more of His living water, the Holy Spirit, so we will be filled with His Spirt and not thirst again.