**“God Desires that All be Saved”**

All our readings today point us to the phrase, **“God desires that all be saved.”** God created us in His image and is madly in love with all of us. His desire is for all of us to come to Him and have our rest. He desires that we all do what is pleasing to Him so He could shower us with an abundance of His grace. God desires that these grace come to us through the humanity of His only begotten Son our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

We, young people, and older adults, are all important in God’s eyes and in His overall plan for humanity. Though the world may take little or no notice of our existence, especially the young, we are all precious in the eyes of God. We are the apple of His eyes and His desire is for us to spend eternity with Him in heaven. All God requires of us is to do His will so we will not end up on the other side where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

In our first reading, Wisdom tells us that God cares about all of us. He desires that we will all be saved. He is the only just Judge who manifest’s Himself to us when we doubt His power. He manifest Himself to us in the awesome movement of nature such as in the beauty of a sunset, in the mighty wind, and in His loving care in life-giving rain. He judges with compassion and mercy. His intent is not to condemn us but to call us to repentance. God prefers repentance to punishment.

He is a God who asks us to be like Him. In His kindness, sometimes, He acts through other people He sends to us when we are down so He can pick us up. All He asks of us is, to be like Him by being kind and merciful to our neighbor. He has given us the grace to be like Him, so we can spend eternal life with Him.

In St Paul’s letter to the Romans, Paul tells us that it is when we are weak that God’s saving power is manifested in us. We should surrender to the power of God and accept His plan for us. We should surrender to the Holy Spirit by accepting God’s plan for our lives. We are called to do so without grumbling but with joy. Our joy is the fruit of our faith and trust in God’s power, wisdom and goodness that leads us to doing God’s will.

Paul says, when we pray through the Holy Spirit Jesus has given us, the Spirit Himself will do our praying for us in ways we cannot understand, but in ways only God can understand. God who desires for all to be saved, and who knows what is good for our salvation, would see through our inner hearts and allow us to do only His will, If we surrender our will to Him.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus gives us three more parables about God’s desire for us to be saved. In the first parable, Jesus connects our salvation to the patience, compassion, and mercy of God. God’s compassion is manifested in the parable by His desire to wait until harvest time when the weeds would be separated from the wheat.

In God’s compassion, He allowed the weed to grow with the wheat because He knows that there will be those who we might consider as weeds at the beginning of their growth in their faith who would later change and become wheat. This are the people who might be sinners at the beginning of their faith and later become saints. While there would be those who might be wheat or saints at the beginning who would become sinners. My brethren, you see, by waiting for harvest time, when we get to heaven, nobody would be able to complain that God did not give them enough time to become saints! To God a thousand years is like one day and a day is like a thousand years as Scripture tells us.

In this parable, I see two end of ages. The first one is whenever we die. We could die when we are young or when we are old. This first end of age, is the harvest time and there will be individual judgment. So, no matter when we die, that would be the end of the age for us in this world. The second age would be at the end of the world, when there will be sifting of the weed from the wheat and we would all be collectively judged.

Jesus also used kingdom to mean two places. First, He called the good seed the children of the kingdom. Then He said He would send His angels to collect out of the kingdom all evildoers and those who caused others to sin. The first kingdom of the good seed, refers to His heavenly kingdom. The second kingdom refers to His Church which consists of saints and sinners.

In interpreting the parable of the weed and wheat, we see a Church that is full of sinners and saints and those in between. One of our duties as brothers and sisters is to help each other become saints. In our effort to stamp out sin and evil, we must not destroy the Church. Our hope is to pray for those who are weak in faith. Our motto on this side of paradise should be, nobody is damned until they take their final breath.

The other two parables our Lord gave His apostles also relates to the Church. The parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the yeast. In the parable of the mustard seed, a seed which Jesus called the smallest of all seeds, Jesus told His apostles that His Church would start small or would consist of just the 12 apostles.

When the small seed is planted, the Church would grow when He, Jesus, builds her on the labor of His apostles. She would then grow to be largest of plants. This means, His Church would spread all over the world as branches but would be one Church because she comes from one large bush. Then all peoples from every nation of the world, would get their faith nourishment from her.

Similarly, with the parable of the yeast, we only need to add a little yeast to flower to make it rise and grow bigger. The three measures of flour represents the Church. The yeast represents the word of God which when we receive and accept into our hearts, would make us grow in our faith in God so we can enter into His heavenly kingdom.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask for His grace so we will be included among the wheat and not the weed.