

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Thus says the LORD:

‘For I know their works and their thoughts,
and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues.
And they shall come and shall see my glory,
and I will set a sign among them.

And from them I will send survivors to the nations,
to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow,
to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away,
that have not heard my fame or seen my glory.

And they shall declare my glory among the nations.

And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations
as an offering to the LORD,

on horses and in chariots and in litters
and on mules and on dromedaries,

to my holy mountain Jerusalem,’ says the LORD,

‘just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean
vessel

to the house of the LORD.

And some of them also

I will take for priests and for Levites,’ says the LORD.

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THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

O praise the LORD, all you nations;

acclaim him, all you peoples!

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

For his mercy has prevailed over us;

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Brothers and Sisters:

Have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And someone said to him,

‘Lord, will those who are saved be few?’ And he said to them,

‘Strive to enter through the narrow door.

For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door,

and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door,

saying, “Lord, open to us”, then he will answer you, “I do not know where you come from.”

Then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.”

But he will say,

“I tell you, I do not know where you come from.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil!”

In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.

And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.’

The Gospel of the Lord

THE REFLECTION

Being a Spurs fan or any football fan chances missed are part of it. If I was to recommend two books, one would be Rebecca for anyone who thinks they have authority but can be totally undermined and Matt Haigs the Midnight Library an imaginary exploration of all the things that might have happened if a different option had been taken. Each book is dated so you can see what else might have happened because of that moment. The conclusion is that the quality of life would have been pretty much the same.

The Gospel today, another challenging one, invites us to consider our commitment to faith and action as Christians, and to consider we might lose. Today's Gospel is similar to Matthew's account of the ten bridesmaids, 10 careful in their preparations, the others not bothering, convinced they would be alright and let in. But they weren't.

Jesus is speaking of his frustration with his audience, many given the chance to believe but they did not commit. Others thinking I've met him, I'll be alright. A notional Christianity is echoed in our time in contrast to the virtue of faith. Faith as a virtue is not static, it grows with practice, having it once is a start, a gift, at Baptism I usually read Jesus' gospel message that the children are given the kingdom of God, like they receive selfless love from their parents. If this start is not developed by practice and commitment, it may well wither and fade away. Jesus encourages us to take our commitment to heart, as so many will and do from all corners of the world

In our practice it seems the Sacrament of Confirmation and Catholic schools develop that faith and understanding and prepare each one to be a living person of faith. Like any skill it requires commitment, a skilled sports player at any level wants to be the best they can, and will keep practicing and developing their skill.

It has been an uncertain position in the Church's teaching as to whether anyone goes to Hell. Some held the idea that a particular sin, if never repented would result this way, more moderately a continued refusal of God's love and forgiveness. Others like me believe Christ died to save us all by paying the debt of sin. The catechism suggests Hell is the exclusion of God's love by choice for those who refuse as a necessary aspect of the free will that we have been given.

