



Fifth Sunday Of Lent

Losing And Saving Life

Introduction

At this time of year new things are being born all around us in nature. This happens because the old things have died. Christ said that the old self, the false self that is in each of us, has to die if the new self, the true self-made in God's image, is to be born. In other words we have to die to sin so as to be able to live the new life Christ won for us. Are we dying to sin – to selfishness pride, anger, and envy? Let us ask the Lord's mercy and help.

First Reading (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The prophet Jeremiah tells a shattered people that God will not forsake them. The day is coming when he will make a new and more intimate covenant with his people.

Second Reading (Hebrews 5:7-9)

This speaks of the pain and anguish Christ endured during his life and especially during his passion. In this way he not only gave us an example but became for us the source of eternal life.

Gospel (John 12:2-33)

Jesus talks about his imminent death – how he fears it, yet desires it, for the hour of his shame will also be the hour of his glory. He talks also about how his followers will have to die to themselves.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that like the grain of wheat we may be prepared to die so that we may be reborn and produce the fruits that God expects from us.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christians: that they may realize that it is by giving that we receive; it is by forgiving that we are forgiven; it is by dying that we are born to eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



For all those who hold positions of responsibility: that they may set aside their personal aims and ambitions and work unselfishly for justice and peace. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who live only for themselves and whose spirit is suffocating under layers of pretence and vanity. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may never forget that each of us carries within us a divine spark, which makes us capable of higher things such as, acts of generosity and self-sacrifice. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Each of us is like a grain of wheat
planted by the heavenly Father.

That grain must die if it is to produce a harvest.

This dying to self is a gradual process
and happens in very ordinary ways.

Every act of kindness involves dying to meanness.

Every act of love involves dying to selfishness.

Every act of humility involves dying to pride.

Every act of courage involves dying to cowardice.

Every act of forgiveness involves dying to bitterness.

When a person's life is producing
a rich harvest of such acts,
it means that the grain of wheat
has well and truly died.

The false self is dying,
and the true self, made in God's image,
is slowly being born.

It is the true self alone
that will inherit eternal life,
for there is no place for what is false
in the presence of God.
It would melt like snow before the sun.