

The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (KJV)

The Gospel reading for today describes Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James and John to be His followers. The four men immediately followed the Lord Jesus Christ. They left their home, families and occupations.

Each person baptized into Christ is a follower of Christ. Interest in sin and sinful ways have no place in the Christian life. Baptism is a definitive commitment to adhere to the teachings and way of Christ.

The Church is currently in the Apostles Fast. This is a time to think about the inspiring examples and complete commitment of the Apostles Peter and Paul to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostles Fast is an opportunity to evaluate our own personal commitment to Christ. Believers benefit from careful examination of the self and degree of personal adherence to the teachings and example of Christ.

Each day is an opportunity to repent of sins and attractions perilous to the soul. Every moment is an opportunity to begin anew in Christ. Jesus welcomes believers seriously seeking the Kingdom of God.

Peter, Andrew, James and John as well as the Apostle Paul have remained as lasting examples of faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We have to ask ourselves if we have been completely faithful from the time of our baptism to the present.

The Lord God knows if we have sincerely repented of our sins and are truly seeking to be followers of Christ. The depths of our minds, hearts and souls are known to God.

God knows any dark or evil thoughts we have entertained. God knows when we have spoken or thought ill of others. God knows when we have been judgmental and unforgiving.

Healing is possible with the Lord Jesus Christ. Health of mind, heart and soul are possible with Jesus Christ. The believer must be willing to follow Christ completely to experience health and healing of heart, mind and soul.

The present Gospel describes Jesus Christ preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing all manner of sickness and diseases. Hope emanates from Christ for all attentive believers hearing the present Gospel.

Joy rises in the hearts of believers wanting to cast sin from their lives and have the shackles of harmful passions severed. The Lord Jesus Christ offers victory over sin and the perils to the soul.

Jesus Christ offers the pathway to the Kingdom and to everlasting life. Mercy, love and forgiveness abound in the Lord Jesus Christ. Horrible sins are no challenge for Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ conquered death. Jesus Christ raised and restored life to the dead. Jesus forgiving sins and giving believers new beginnings in life continues to occur unto the present day.

Jesus is the way to have the conscience, the heart, the mind and the soul purified. Jesus is the pathway to peace that passes all understanding. (Phil.4:7) Jesus is the Emanator of loves that heals.

God's Holy Church prescribes the Apostles Fast each year. The Apostles Fast enables believers to redirect life to the Heavenly Kingdom. Believers are encouraged to use the Fast to repent and redirect the self toward Christ.

The Church nourishes believers during the Fast. The Divine services, the Holy Scriptures and the teachings of the Church serve as daily sources of nourishment for the mind, heart and soul.

While today's society moves to embrace values and activities reminiscent of Sodom and Gomorrah, believers are called to embrace the lasting values and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers find wisdom and eternal nourishment in the Church. Believers become aware of the proven pathways to the Heavenly Kingdom chosen by the saints and martyrs.

Too often sinful ways are promoted as good in today's world. Too often the perils addressed by the Holy Prophets are ignored. Too often lives are harmed and ruined by current societal teachings.

Goodness, mercy and God's love live within the Church and are taught by the Church. The Church offers light in the darkest moments of life. The Church provides hope when despair seems to be creeping into daily life.

The Lord God knows the needs of believers. God provides through the Church the necessities of life. Wise believers seek to learn in the Church. Wise believers embrace the way of Christ taken up at Holy Baptism.

Peter, Andrew, James and John embarked on a new life in Christ. Each believer embarks on a new life in Christ at Holy Baptism. The Apostles Fast is the time to ensure faithfulness to Jesus Christ continues with great joy.

The Second Sunday after Pentecost. June 21/July 4,/21, 2021. Holy Martyr Julian of Tarsus; Venerable Anastasia of Serbia. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic