

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 6:22-33

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)

We cannot enter the Kingdom of God on our own. We need the help, mercy and goodness of God for all that we do. We are foolish if we think we accomplish anything good on our own.

Any talents we have, the energy we have and the working of our mind depends on God and comes from God. Our body and the working of the body depends on God.

Each breath, each heartbeat and movement of the body depends on God. Looking beyond the self to God and to God in our lives is beneficial throughout life. God is bigger and greater than we have ever imagined.

Many years ago, +Proto Radovan Milkovich of Blessed Memory preached a sermon describing God as being too small in our minds. We are challenged in life to know the constant revealing of the greatness of God.

The present Gospel gives focus for each individual life. The Kingdom of God is the first priority for believers. Efforts and thoughts of each believer are to be directed to the Kingdom of God.

Following Holy Baptism, believers are to follow the path to the Kingdom of God with great earnestness. When believers depart from the path, immediate repentance and return are expected.

We find wise words in the Book of the Holy Prophet Jeremiah: “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the **ways**, and see, and ask for the **old** paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. “ (Jer.6:16)

Peace for the soul is elusive if the mind, heart and soul are caught up in the contemporary world. God must be first and foremost in life for peace to be achieved. The battle for the soul to remain at peace is continuous.

The Lord God provides the strength for believers to achieve peace in the heart, mind and soul. Jesus invites believers to draw near and experience peace dearly needed for life.

Jesus said: “**Take my yoke** upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” (Mt.11:29) The desire for the Lord must be stronger than the desire for sin for peace to be achieved.

Efforts to pray, fast and forcefully protect the heart, mind and soul are necessary. The Christian life is a battle from Baptism until departure from this life. The battles against sin and seeking God’s Kingdom are waged within the person.

The world makes departing from the path to the Kingdom very appealing. Commercials abound to take the mind, heart and soul far from the Lord God. Constant vigilance is required to keep God first and foremost in life.

The Church offers the support, nourishment and resources for believers to remain on the path to the Kingdom. The saints and martyrs through the centuries prove that remaining faithful is possible.

Repentance is possible at all times up to the very last moment of life. The repentant thief on the cross proved the value of repentance. Jesus told the thief: “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Lk.23:41-43)

Love for God is to be cultivated in life. Our love for God increases when we adhere to God’s teachings and experience their value. We verify God’s presence and experience God in daily life by looking for God and abiding by God’s ways.

God is revealed constantly in daily life for believers with eyes to see and ears to hear. God is ever-present and verifiable when the mind is directed toward God and focused on seeking God.

The mind, heart and soul fill with peace and joy when God dominates life. Daily choices reveal the goals and paths embraced in life. The use of time, talents and resources becomes the record of the person’s interests, priorities and goals.

God is fully aware of each person’s interests, desires and sinfulness. The ability to repent exists withing each believer. Like the repentant thief let us sincerely say, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” (Lk.23:42)

The Third Sunday after Pentecost. Transfer of Relices of St. Cyrus and John. New Martyrs of Dabar and Mileseva. June 28/July 1, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.
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