

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)

Seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteous is the constant challenge for the believer. Resoluteness and great determination are necessary to keep the focus on God's Kingdom and His righteousness.

Many temptations and attractions in the world compete for the believer's attention. Evil is subtle and often may appear as good to detract the believer and put the soul in peril.

False gods and erroneous ways of worshipping and following God exist in the world. The believer's eye must be discerning in making choices throughout the day.

The heart and mind must be vigilant to permit only the way of the Lord God to enter. The soul requires protection from infections that are rampant in the present world.

The perils existing today have been uncovered through the centuries in different forms. God's Holy Church provides the teachings of Jesus Christ for believers to assess and evaluate the paths in life to follow.

The Church provides protection from worldly perils and evil. The Church offers nourishment to strengthen the heart, mind and soul. God is a good and loving God seeking to save and redeem sinners.

When a believer succumbs to sin and perils in the world, immediate repentance is beneficial. Repentance is always beneficial and timely. Repentance is never outdated or overly emphasized.

Believers fall into sin daily whether knowingly or unknowingly. Sin can be intentional or unintentional. A believer can be careless and take a wrong path without realizing it.

Often the mind yields to ungodly thoughts. The mouth speaks words hastily that are harmful to others. The heart can become hardened against someone. Repentance is necessary to overcome sin and embrace the way of God.

Repentance restores the believer's journey to the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. God's love heals the hurting heart, mind and soul affected by sin. God's love reassures the believer of the value of seeking God's Kingdom.

The hunger in the soul receives the necessary nourishment when the believer seeks first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The eye focused on the Kingdom of God fills the heart, mind and soul with the Light of Christ.

Darkness in today's world may masquerade as light. When a believer falls victim to following a perilous path, darkness invades the heart, mind and soul. The Crucified and Resurrected Christ is the antidote to darkness.

The Light of the Resurrected Christ is the certain hope and cure when darkness overcomes daily life. The Resurrected Christ shines the path to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Christ's Light shines forever for those with eyes to see. Christ's words in the Gospel enlighten the heart, mind and soul. The attentive believer is nourished and renewed when learning about Jesus Christ in the Holy Scriptures.

God's Church nourishes the hungry believer. Divine services of the Church fortify the believer for the battles with evil encountered in daily life. Holy Fathers and Mothers of the Church inspire and instruct believers on God's way.

Rejoice today for the opportunity to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Be grateful for God's everlasting love and welcoming embrace. Thank God for the Church and the saints down through the centuries.

When growing weary in the journey to God's Kingdom, find rest and nourishment in the Church. Partake of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ to remain united with and to experience the living Christ.

The present Gospel is a message of hope and joy. The present Gospel reassures the believer of God's irrevocable love and care. Attentive believers are inspired and strengthened by the present Gospel.

Now is the time to reassess the goals in life. Now is the moment to be certain the Kingdom of God and His righteous are first and foremost in the heart, mind and soul. Today glorify and give thanks to God in the journey to His Kingdom.

The Third Sunday after Pentecost. Venerable Onuphrius the Great; Venerable Peter of Mt. Athos. June 12/25, Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic