

## Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 10, 2018

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

#### Scripture Reading: GN 3:9-15

After the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree, the LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!" The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it." The LORD God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

#### Responsorial Psalm: PS 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

**R. (7bc) With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.**

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.**

I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.**

For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption and he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

**R. With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.**

#### Scripture Reading: 2 COR 4:13—5:1

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, I believed, therefore I spoke, we too believe and therefore we speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise

us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

#### Gospel: MK 3:20-35

Jesus came home with his disciples. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons."

Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder the house. Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin." For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

## **Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 10, 2018**

### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

#### **INVITATION TO PRAY**

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presens of God..

#### **Proclaim the Scriptures out loud**

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a Word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

#### **INVITATION TO REFLECT**

This Sunday's Readings may reveal the dilemma of the ages that all people face, how to answer the questions; "Who is this man Jesus?" and "What should we believe regarding him?".

In the first reading we observe Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve and their dilemma would they believe God who created all things for their good and spoke personally warn them not to eat of the Tree of Life, or Satan, the serpent, who had done nothing for them and conversely called into question the validity of God's word and warning. Unfortunately, it was at that point that their desire for self-rule influenced their decision to not believe God, but to believe Satan, and they disobeyed.

In the second reading St. Paul encourages them to persevere (continue on believing) and to not doubt and lose heart in the face of affliction. Previously they believed, they spoke openly of their belief, and now they were suffering and dealing with affliction and the deterioration of their outward body, would they continue to believe?

In the Gospel reading the crowd was in turmoil asking who Jesus was, and where did he get these powers. What are they to believe? Jesus patiently continues to teach them and when Mary, his mother appears, he clarifies that "he who does the will of God," these are my mother and brothers. He connects for them the issue that Adam and Eve missed, so that they would not miss it; believing is not an exercise in intellectual gymnastics, but rather believing is doing what God wills. Theologian Henri de Lubac explains it for us this way:

"The Latin verb *credo* (presumably derived from *cor do* = 'I give my heart.') can be understood in three ways:

(1) *Credo Deum esse* = 'I believe that God exists';

(2) *Credo Deo* = 'I believe God', 'I entrust myself to him';

a third way is the specifically Christian mode that comes from biblical usage:

(3) *Credo in Deum* = 'I believe in God', 'I believe unto God.'

Behind this last formula is the Hebrew idea of faith as the state of being anchored in God, of being moored securely in God, as it then says in the Gospel of John: 'Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me' (Jn 14:1). To believe in God means to acknowledge him, to do him homage, to worship him, to commend oneself and one's entire life to him, to believe unto him, [as one's destination] in the unity of faith, hope and love."<sup>\*</sup>

To believe is a life-long growing experience. These passages of Scripture and this quote by Henri de Lubac are worth our continued consideration, and it is important to pray and ask God as the apostle Thomas did, "Lord I believe, help Thou my unbelief."

<sup>\*</sup> From, Meet Henri De Lubac: His Life and Word, by Rudolf Voderhalzer, pages 177-178.

## **Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 10, 2018**

### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

#### **INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING**

1. Describe the results of their misplaced belief?
2. What help does God provide for us to persevere in our belief unto the end?
3. How did Jesus respond to disbelief as expressed by the people and the scribes? Did Jesus use his mother and brothers as a positive or negative example?

#### **INVITATION TO ACT**

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

#### **CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY**

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*