

Sunday Readings Reflections of 6/19/2016

Reading 1 Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1

The first reading is from the prophet Zechariah whose initial prophecy is dated around the year 520 B.C.. Today's reading from Chapter 12 is part of the Book of Zechariah attributed to other authors and is sometimes called "Deutero-Zechariah."

Chapter 12 begins the oracle proclaiming the victory of God's people. The blessings that will be poured out on Jerusalem come through the suffering of "him whom they have pierced." There will be mourning, but also purification from sin and uncleanness.

One cannot help but think of Jerusalem today and the mourning that takes place daily in the midst of divisions and wars. Where is the "spirit of grace"? It remains, of course, for God never abandons his people. The spirit of God's grace lives in the hearts of those who have mourned for all those who have known suffering and even death in the Holy City. Grace abounds in those who work ceaselessly for peace against tremendous odds. Pray that God's grace will be poured out on the people of Jerusalem and on all God's people who know mourning.

Reading 2 Galatians 3:26-29

In this letter to the Galatians, Paul is writing to the people he converted from paganism to Christianity. He writes to correct some of the errors that have been presented to the Galatians by those Jews who believed that any converts must follow Jewish laws--circumcision and other obligations. Paul proclaims that faith in Jesus Christ and Baptism make all one in Christ, regardless of one's former state.

Paul writes of the divisions and inequities which existed between people at that time: Jews and Greeks, slaves and free people, males and females. From the time of Saint Paul until this day, all who are baptized in Jesus Christ are clothed with him, belong to him, and are heirs of the promise of Eternal Life. We have only to recognize any divisions, inequities, injustices and correct them. Preserving the unity of the Body of Christ must be the concern of all who belong to him.