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Today' s Word

Easter Sunday, Year A (6 June)

Parish Priest: Father Hiroshi Konishi

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2 - 3, 14b - 16a

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16 - 17

Gospel Reading: John 6:51 - 58

[Reflections on the Three Readings]

First Reading: Recalling God' s Providence

The First Reading reminds us of God' s work in providing for us throughout the forty years in the wilderness. God is one who engages with us, cares for us, and provides for us. While God does test us, these trials are meant to bring us closer to Him.

Let us remember the phrase “forty years of wandering in the wilderness” found in verse 2. This refers to the journey during which the Israelites wandered from their exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. As verse 15 describes, the wilderness is a vast, terrifying place devoid of water, filled with fiery serpents and scorpions. There, people have no choice but to rely not only on their own strength but also on God' s power.

The wilderness is a place to encounter God and to experience His care and providence. Throughout their 40-year journey, the Israelites encountered God in the wilderness. They experienced God' s gratuitous care through the waters of Meribah, the manna, the quail, and the bronze serpent.

In this passage, the technique of Moses' recollection is used to show that God' s providence during the wilderness period still exists today and is alive.

Second Reading: Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God

The word “share” in verse 16 is an interesting expression. In Greek, it is called “koinonia.” It can be understood in two ways: “connection, closeness” and “to give, to participate.”

To believe in God' s providence is nothing other than placing our trust in God' s word. In this way, we come to live in koinonia with God.

Gospel Reading: Within You

Jesus, who is the Bread, is the Jesus who desires to be eaten. Jesus becomes the Bread so that we may be deeply united with him. In this way, koinonia is realized through the Bread of Jesus.

Let us savor this as we reflect on our own lives.

Human beings live by the word of God. For the word of God is life itself (John 1:4). Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14). By receiving the Eucharist, which is the Body of that Jesus, I am given life.

A female mystic wrote the following at the end of her life:

“Transformed by suffering, love, and the practice of every virtue, I wish to ascend to heaven united with the cry of Your soul: ‘This is My Body, My Blood.’ ”

(Words of Blessed Almidia Concepción Cabrera, a Mexican mystic)

My life without the Holy Eucharist is unthinkable.

Announcement

Noto Peninsula Earthquake Relief Briefing
June 27, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Antonio Hall,

Father Kataoka from the Nagoya Diocese will be joining us to share an update on the situation in the Noto Peninsula.

There will also be a sale of relief supplies.

Hope everyone will join us.