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Today' s Word

Easter Sunday, Year A (31 May)

Parish Priest: Father Hiroshi Konishi

First Reading: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel Reading: John 3:16-18

Today' s Gospel reading is from the dialogue with Nicodemus. Immediately preceding it is the passage, "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must also be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (verses 14-15, Franciscan translation). Today' s reading follows from that.

The event of "Moses lifting up the snake in the wilderness" is from the story of the Israelites' 40-years journey through the wilderness after their rescue from Egypt (Numbers 21:4-9).

Verses 14 and 15 express the work of salvation and its purpose from the perspective of Jesus, the "Son of Man." In contrast, verses 16 onwards express the work of salvation and its purpose from the perspective of God (the Father).

The Flavors of Three Readings

First Reading: God Reveals Himself Openly

God Himself revealed Himself as "Lord, Lord, merciful and gracious God, patient, full of compassion and truth." This is called divine revelation. God is not an incomprehensible mystery, but a God who reveals Himself to humanity.

Second Reading: The Image of God Gradually Revealed

God gradually reveals Himself in accordance with human capabilities and levels. In other words, He does not reveal Himself all at once. In that sense, God can be called a mystery. In the second reading, we came to understand Him as a God of love, a God of peace, a God who is with us, a God of fellowship. The catalyst for this understanding was the Passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading: The Sender and the Sent

Jesus must have had a sense in His heart that He was sent out to save the world. Even after Jesus was sent into this world, His communion with God the Father was not lost. Rather, it deepened precisely because He was sent into this world.

Let us consider today's three readings in light of our own lives.

Following the first and second readings, the nature of God gradually becomes clear in our lives. Therefore, we cannot definitively say, "I know God." We must always beat our breasts and humbly pray, "God, please teach us about yourself."

However, as the second reading shows, God is a God of communion (koinonia). This is because the loving communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exists within God's life. This communion overflows outward, into our daily lives. The God of communion desires to have fellowship with each and every one of us.

What emerges from the Gospel readings is the relationship between God the Father and Jesus, His only begotten Son. The relationship of sending someone off and being sent off cannot exist without trust and understanding. We have all sent others off and been sent off in various situations in our lives. What were those feelings? Perhaps we can begin to understand, even a little, what God the Father felt when He sent His Only Son off.

Announcement

The church website is back online.

The address is <https://www.seta-catholic-church.com/>.