

June 20, 2010

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle C

dcn. joe schmitt

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

*God is a fountain to purify*

**Psalm 63**

**Galatians 3:26-29**

*Through Baptism we have put on Christ: We are children of God*

**Luke 9:18-24**

*Life is found in suffering and death: a gift of the Christ of God*

### **The Paschal Mystery Revealed**

**God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.**

**I remember as a young boy, always being reminded by my Father, before we left for some event like camp; or an extended vacation with grandma and grandpa; or entrance into the minor seminary, "To remember who I was!" I never really fully appreciated what he was trying to teach me at those moments, but as I grew up I did come to know what he was trying to have us remember. Being a "Schmitt" meant something very important and was to be respected at all costs. Just the other day I googled myself finally, because someone told me I really should do that. I found nothing of significance about myself; but I did find significant writing about my cousins who were the 1956 national champions in Barbershop quarteting. What really caught my**

attention was the obituary (very long) on my great, grandfather who was a very respected and loved man.

So today in Luke Gospel, we once again find Jesus in prayer – customary in Luke. Before Jesus does any movement, he discerns in prayer to his father. Jesus has a clear sense of his divine role but not a clearly drawn out road map of how it is all to be accomplished, so he is naturally in discernment, as many of us do in our own spiritual direction in life. So he engages his disciples, “So what is it you hear about me?” and he gets all sorts of answers. It was clear that he was seen as a prophetic figure by many. Then he digs a bit deeper, “No, No what do you say about who I am?” And, of course, impetuous Peter jumps right in with “YOU are THE CHRIST of GOD.” Jesus immediately does a course correction here. It’s not that Peter was wrong, He was just not complete. Jesus wanted nothing to do with the militaristic, political offspring of David who was forecast to save the people of Israel. Through prayer he had discerned enough to know that he was to suffer and even die but also he would rise again to bring about this redemption that was forecast. This would be true not only for him but for them and for us if we follow in his footsteps and actually “put on Christ” as Paul indicates in Galatians.

This is not the norm. If we are to find life, we must give it up for the sake of others. Life in God is not found in wealth, power, authority, or possessions; but rather in the washing of feet (remember the women from last week). If we put on Christ! I love that expression. Do you think if Deacon Pat came in here right now in his former capacity as an investigator for the Kalamazoo Public Safety, that he could discover enough evidence to actually convict us of our belief in Jesus?

As I reflected on this matter, I discovered that this is something that I really cannot do alone. I need each and every one of you to build with me the faith I possess. Notice how we will recite our creed in a few

minutes, it begins “We believe ...” Again at the memorial acclamation we are asked to state our faith together, (one possibility is) “Lord by your cross and resurrection you have set US free. Notice how we will together pray the Lord’s Prayer which states “Our Father ... give us ... our daily bread ... forgive us ... our sins.. lead us.” We are in this as a community. This is what makes the sacrament of marriage so special, it is just like the Church, we can’t do it alone, we need each other as stakeholders in our lives.

Jesus has paid a great price for our freedom. This freedom can be a great gift that allows us to freely love God and others in return. We have put on Christ! By his life and death, his passion and resurrection, Jesus has shown us the great mystery that we call Paschal. It is not about sacrificial scape-goating but about love and the value that suffering can play in each of our lives if we are willing to pick up our cross and follow him whose side was pierced and blood and water flowed out giving birth to the Church. So here we are celebrating that great Paschal Mystery in our lives and trying to discern what role God is calling us to complete in God’s Love story.

Who do you say that I am?

God is good, **all the time.** All the time, **God is good.**