

Pentecost 17 - Broken Pieces and Inscriptions that Speak to Humanity

Second Inaugural Address Abraham Lincoln March 4th 1865 Washington. Lincoln said, in part, "It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged." Lincoln quoted Psalm 19:9 in that wonderful, though brief address: "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." A few weeks later, on April 14th 1865, he was shot in the back of the head. A light of humanity went out in America, but he has inspired many others.

A man visited his wife in a nursing home every day. She had Alzheimer's disease, and she could not recognize him. People asked him, "Why do you keep going when she doesn't even know who you are?" He would respond, "Because I know who I am".

Rabbi Harold Kushner gave a gift to all of us with his book When Bad Things Happen to Good People. It was about his son who died early from progeria, premature aging. It must be awful for a father to see his son looking many years older than himself. Years later, he

has written Overcoming Life's Disappointments, based on the story of Moses. It is a beautiful book, full of biblical insights and a particular wisdom that is gained by looking at the Scriptures for so long that one sees through them to God. It is not the only source of wisdom, but it is based on an endless array of biblical insights.

Moses had his disappointments as a leader. The people complained in the wilderness and they looked back to the servitude in Egypt with nostalgia. "We remember the fish we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks the onions and the garlic" (Numbers 11:5). Their food was provided in Egypt, but under the stroke of the lash. The food was free and they were enslaved. Now in the wilderness they have to think for themselves and fend for themselves.

Moses had his highs and his lows like all of us. A Jewish tradition has Moses lovingly gathering up the broken fragments of the stone tablets that he had either broken or let slip from his hands. He places the stones in the Ark of the Covenant with the second complete set of stone-inscribed commandments which he and God had

fashioned on the mountain. The first set came directly from God. The second set was made with the combined efforts of God and the very human Moses. It is so with our Scriptures: God and humanity together.

Another Jewish tradition laden with humour says that the people rushed forward to get pieces of the stones "autographed by God" for souvenirs or 'relics'. The rich and powerful chose the more attractive words, "kill", "steal", and "covet" and left the "Thou Shalt Not(s)" for the poor.

Lincoln's "Wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces" fits well with the Hebrew people scrambling for Manna that had turned sour. They had gone about securing their bread (Manna) in the wrong way. This is not about judgement, but the hope of more merciful moments to temper our souls. "Ultimately the whole and the broken live side by side in all of us" (Estelle Frankel). **Bishop Arthur Jones**

Mark your calendar . . .

Next Sunday, **October 4**, is the day when we honor all parishioners born in October and those who celebrate their wedding anniversaries in October. Come and join us to celebrate this milestone in their journey of life. Special blessings for all celebrants will be done by Bishop Arthur Jones.

Weather permitting, there will be a **Medical Mission to Tadian, Sagada, Mt. Province on October 9-10**. Please see the ECW bulletin board for details and sign-up sheet. Voluntary participation from parishioners is encouraged.

Sunday School Parents...

October 4th is St. Francis de Assisi Day-Patron Saint of Animals.

The children are encouraged to bring their pets to be blessed by Bishop Arthur Jones.

Be sure your pet has someone to accompany it by leash.

Please sign the St. Francis Day Sheet with your name, phone and pet description.

Carlyn Manning

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:
Sept 27, 2009**

**We are thankful to those who are
ministering in the church this morning**

Celebrants:

[7:30] The Rt. Rev. Arthur Jones

[9:30] The Rev. Marc Jacobson

Preacher: The Rt. Rev. Arthur Jones

Eucharistic Ministers:

[7:30] Bernice Elaine Ong

[9:30] Clark Brown/Bertie Ezra

Lectors:

[7:30] Bernice Elaine Ong **[9:30]** Jon Lindborg

Ministers of Music:

Ferdinand Bautista /Reynaldo Diocampo

Ushers: **[7:30]** Albert & Emily Yu

[9:30] Josephine Co/Katherine Ursua

Acolytes: Patrick Dagas/Alexis Dalmas/Loren Ursua
Eric Gatulla/Dexter Fanged/David Joaquin

Offering of the Bread and Wine & Hospitality:

Terry & Cherry Ann Lynch

*The altar flowers are donated to the glory of God
by:* Joleen Mangaoang

COLLECT:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29,
p. 162-164

Second Reading: James 4:7-12, p. 1361

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48 (NRSV)

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY:

[7:30]

Gradual No. 548, Soldiers of Christ arise

Recessional The Lord of sea and sky (insert)

[9:30]

Processional No. 400, All creatures of our God
(omit verse 6)

Gradual No. 548, Soldiers of Christ arise

Communion No. 656, Blest are the pure in heart
No. 306, Come risen Lord

Recessional The Lord of sea and sky (insert)

Your prayers are asked for:

Those who are celebrating their birthdays this week especially
Marie Kawi (Sept. 27) Tupou Lindborg (Sept. 30)
Anandani Perera (Sept. 28) Consuelo Gapongli (Oct. 1)
John Jerusalem Tiongson (Sept. 28) Harris Lim Conlin (Oct. 2)
Andrea Miquela Benitez (Sept. 29) Gemma Gepayo (Oct. 3)
Jefferson Ngie (Sept. 29) Ronald Thoburn (Oct. 3)
Sam Tukuafu (Sept. 29)

Those who are in need of healing especially Allan Waterfield,
Beryl Tanner, Ron Jacob, Agosto Macli Sr, Carlyn-Fern Manning
Johnny Manning Jr, Rom Vildzius, Audrey Lacson, Loy Solasco
Benjie Conzales, Jovel Llagas, Richard Kendall, Aris Paraman
JPeter, Isabel Yu, Ted Whale, Merly Quiapos, Susan Dalmas,
Helen Irvine, Carrie Angus, Diana Croyston, Nori Ongsiako,
Keila & Kamille Garcia.

The repose of the souls of Florante Echanis, Marilyn Jackson,
and Bill Shipp.

Phyllis Harvey, Kathleen Rachel Staley, Antonio Martin,
George Bouffler, Felizarda Pajarito on the occasion of their
death anniversaries.

	Loose Plate	Pledge
Last Sunday	P20,740.50	P37,300.00
Year - to - date	P786,931.50	P2,615,597.50
2009 Budget	P940,000.00	P3,900,000.

***Today's
event . . .***

The **Episcopal Church Women of CHT** will have a **meeting at 10:45 a.m., at the Parish Hall.** Agenda will include ECW's Live-
lihood Projects and the United Thanks Offering. All church women are encour-
aged to attend.

This Week:

- Sept 29, Tue. 10:00am
• Bible Study
 Parish Hall.
- Oct 1, Thurs. 10:00am
• Eucharist,
 Chapel.
- Oct 4, Sun. 7:30am/
• Eucharist. 9:30am
• Sunday 9:15am
 School,
 Parish Hall.