

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity welcomes you!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER. MAY 05, 2024

A Reading from a sermon of Leo the Great

The whole of the mystery of Easter has been given us in the gospel narratives; the terrible betrayal of our Lord Jesus Christ, his condemnation, his cruel crucifixion, his glorious resurrection. No you must implant in your hearts the words of the gospel.

The cross of which Christ made use to save humankind, is both a mystery, and an example: a mystery in which the fullness of the divine power is involved, an example which leads us to generosity.

When all the human race had fallen, God determined in his mercy to give aid, through his only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, to the creatures made in his own image; he wished that the restoration of their nature should not come from outside, but that it should be raised to a dignity superior to that of its origin. Happy they would have been, if they had not fallen from this first dignity in which he had placed them, but far happier still will they be, if they remain in that to which he has elevated them. It was already much to have recovered their beauty from the hands of Christ, but it is still better to be incorporated in Christ for ever.

The divine nature in him has indeed captured us; we have become his property. In himself, in the unity of his person, he has united human nature to the divine nature. Infirmary and mortality, which are not sinful, but the punishment of sin, were taken by the Redeemer of the world that he might be able to suffer and pay our ransom. Hence, that which is in others the heritage of condemnation, is in Christ the mysterious wit-

ness to his loving kindness. For he, who owed nothing, offered himself to the pitiless demands of his creditor; he abandoned his sinless flesh to be tortured by the hands of his enemies, the devil's instruments. He wished to possess a mortal body until his resurrection, so that faith in him would make persecutions bearable, and even death incapable of depressing us; sure of sharing the same nature, we are certain of receiving the same glory.

It follows then, that if we firmly believe in our heart what we profess with our lips, then in Christ we have been crucified, have died, been buried and have also been raised the third day. The Apostle says: 'Risen, then, with Christ, you must lift your thoughts above, where Christ now sits at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on earth. You have died, and now your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ is made manifest, who is your life, then you too will be made manifest with him in glory.'

And that the faithful may know how to raise their thoughts to such lofty heights and despise worldly lusts, our Lord pledges to us his presence, saying: 'And behold I am with you all through the days that are coming, until the consummation of the world.'

We must, therefore, neither lose our heads among vanities, nor tremble at adversities. Doubtless, such pleasures have their attractions and work is hard. But since 'the earth is filled with the Lord's kindness,' the victory of Christ which is ours is everywhere. It is the fulfilment of his words: 'Take courage, I have overcome the world.' [Source: *Celebrating the Seasons*]

MAY:

- May 12, Sunday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- May 18, Saturday, 12noon-5:00p.m., Norway Day
- May 19, Vestry meeting 11:00 a.m., Vestry meeting
- May 25, Saturday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- May 26, TRINITY SUNDAY, JOINT SERVICE, 8:30a.m. Potluck follows.
- May 26, 2:00p.m., Wedding

JUNE:

- June 2, Sunday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 9, Sunday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- June 10, Monday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 12, Wednesday, 2:00p.m., Wedding
- June 15, Saturday, 2:30p.m., Wedding
- June 16, Sunday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 19, Wednesday, 3:00p.m., Wedding
- June 22, Saturday, 3:00p.m., Wedding

SAINT:

Julian of Norwich, 8 May: On this day in the year 1373, when Julian of Norwich was thirty years old and suffering from what was considered to be a terminal illness, she experienced a series of sixteen visions, which revealed aspects of the love of God. Following her recovery, she spent the next twenty years of her life pondering their meaning and recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English, *The Revelations of Divine Love*. At an unknown point in her life, she became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich. She died around the year 1417.