



A meditation based on Baruch 5:1-9

God is leading Israel in joy. (Baruch 5:9)

When was the last time you saw Jesus in another person? Not just in a vague “I suppose so” way, but in a specific inspiring “Hey! I just felt the Lord!” way?

While it may not seem so at first, this is the kind of vision that Baruch gives his people in today’s first reading. Baruch is speaking to the people of Jerusalem - a people who have survived a devastating military assault and who are now living hand to mouth in their city of ruins. Most of their fellow Israelites were carted off to exile in Babylon, leaving behind them a dreary and war-torn landscape.

Seeing his people’s distress, Baruch gave them an unexpected message from God. Rather than telling them to look *up* and fix their eyes on the Lord, he directed their gaze *out*, where they would ultimately see their exiled brothers and sisters coming home in joyful procession. He promised that if they looked closely enough, they would see God’s presence in the midst of these returnees. They would see it for the miracle that it was, and that vision would fill them with joy.

What Baruch told the Israelites the Holy Spirit wants to tell you: *If you want to see Jesus, don’t just look up to heaven. Look out at the people around you as well.*

Try an experiment at Mass today. Everytime you stand (for the Gospel Acclamation, the Creed, the Great Amen, and the Communion procession), look at the people standing with you. Tell yourself, “These are my brothers and sisters. Jesus has given them to me so that I could find him more easily. Each one of them reveals a different facet of God’s love and faithfulness.”

All these people surrounding you are precious to the Lord. Together with you, they make up the body of Christ. This means that Jesus is present in them, just as he is present in the Host and the chalice. So don’t just look up. Look out as well, and marvel that Jesus is coming to you in such a personal way.

TODAY’S OTHER READINGS

Psalm 126:1-6

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

2 Peter 3:8-14

Pray... “Lord, open my eyes to see you!”

Sunday, 9th December 2018



The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.



6th December,
Feast Day of St Nicholas

Did you know:

St. Nicholas was a bishop in 3rd century Turkey. He is most remembered for helping the poor and sick.

The most famous story of St. Nicholas is about him secretly leaving money for the three daughters of a poor man to provide dowries for them. He threw three bags of gold coins in the window of their home, and the coins landed in the girls’ stockings, which were hung by the fire to dry.

The real St. Nicholas is the origin of various Santa Claus traditions around the world.