

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS 11/04/18

Mount Calvary, West View

REVELATION 7: 9-17, I JOHN 3: 1-3, MATTHEW 5: 1-12

HYMNS: LORD OF OUR LIFE AND GOD OF OUR SALVATION LSB #659,

WE SING FOR ALL THE UNSUNG SAINTS LSB #678,

BEHOLD A HOST ARRAYED IN WHITE LSB #676

Theme: Blessed Saints at War

+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is taken from the Gospel reading for today, the 5th chapter of Saint Matthew:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God

There is a fear, that we are about to go to war at our southern border in the very near future. I cannot look into said future and see if this is true or not, but what I do know is that many times our military has been deployed in order to *stop* a war from happening or continuing. WWI and WWII come to mind, as well as the Korean, the Vietnam, and the Falkland wars. What? You do not recall that we helped in the Falkland war? We sent supplies. We also provided ships, but not to fight. The warships were dispatched to, shall we say, impose a presence to help our dear British allies. In other words, to keep the peace, once the war settled down. So, was it really peacekeeping, or was it show of force? I leave that for you to decide.

I am more concerned as to what Jesus is calling a peacemaker, for they shall be called sons of God. Looking at the other blessings Jesus gives: Blessed are the poor in spirit; Blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, how much different are the Peacemakers? It appears that these are the only aggressive, in-your-face combatants. Everyone

else is in a list that might need a peacemaker to fight on their side, to be a presence in a state of conflict.

This world is full of conflict. Some are subtle, like two business people fighting for the same client. Some are more volatile, like what we are seeing about to happen at the border. We need peacekeepers that can diffuse a situation and bring about peace. But can we? Can we make peace in a world bent on making trouble and thriving on brute-force and violence? We get upset and sometimes volatile over the littlest of things. People driving too slowly; the person cutting us off; the bad grade for a test we didn't study hard enough for; the alarm clock for actually ringing at the time we set it to ring. All these things make us sometimes, well, lose our heads for a bit, and, well, put us in a bad mood for the rest of the day. A bad mood that makes us *not* at peace with God.

I can say this, for when we **do** have peace with God, we have all the blessings Jesus promises; we will be comforted, satisfied, obtaining mercy, the world is our oyster (Jesus said inherit the earth, but I think it's ok to say that,) we shall be called sons of God, we shall *see* God. Above all, the Kingdom of Heaven **is ours**. Well, it would be, if we were not so volatile with our lives and allowing our old man inside to resurface and take over and make us do things and say things that do not bring about peace in our days.

This is where Jesus steps in. Jesus came down, lived the sinless life of following every commandment of the Father in every second of every moment, and He gave the greatest sacrifice: He gave up His life and His blood for the cleansing of the Nations. He has done this, for we cannot do one iota ourselves. Have you ever wondered why the Saints in our Revelation reading are so happy, singing all the hymns they sing? Why are they content with serving Him day and night? Because they know, without a doubt, that they made it to this heavenly place not with what they

did, or even on what they could have done, but with what God has done for them. All the blessed saints who have gone before, understand that they are saved not by the works of our hands but with the Work of the Son Who saves alone.

Therein lies the battle my friends. We are at war with ourselves, with the devil, with the world who does not want to believe in a Jesus but in everything else under the sun. The struggles you have daily are real and trying struggles, but make no mistake, with the baptism you have in the faith of Jesus Christ, you are a peacemaker ó at peace with all because Christ has conquered all. He has overcome the WORLD, and gives you peace over this world, to share with others. Sometimes you may not feel at peace, for the warfare is hard and long ó seriously, the war is your whole lifetime, but fear not, for Jesus has overcome the world! His victory is your victory and all you do is live in peace with your God and neighbor. Remembering you are forgiven of all your many sins gives you the peace that lets you live and forgive and quite possibly forget.

This is the hope that purifies. I am at peace with God who has forgiven my sins. You are at peace with the God Who has forgiven your sins. Because He has shed His blood, you are covered in righteousness, and never hunger nor thirst again. Being a peacemaker means that you have the means to show others your faith, and help others be at peace by offering them the way to peaceful sainthood ó trust in God alone, and peace with God. Who knows, maybe you can be the saint we sing who once went unsung, for you truly are mindful of your Lord, as a vessel of God's grace. In His most Holy Name. AMEN.

+ NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. AMEN +

OFFERINGS

There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment