**Homily for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (1/27/2019)**

Rev. Francis Kim

Few people know how to rest these days. Even on vacation, many people rush to cram in as much as they can before returning to their jobs, where they spend twice as much energy catching up in the work and mail that piled up in their absence. Many of us need vacations just to rest from our vacations! Perhaps, we have been looking for rest in the wrong places.

Jesus said, “Come to Me, and I will give you rest.” Like peace, rest and contentment can be found only in one place, from one source, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus gives us the ultimate rest, the confidence we need, to escape the frustration and chaos of the world around us. Rest in Him and don’t worry about lies ahead. Jesus Christ has already taken care of tomorrow.

Now, after His Baptism, Jesus began His public ministry. Last week, we heard the story of Jesus’ changing water into wine, which was His first miracle, and today, we hear Jesus is very publicly stating His teaching and proclaims the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Old Testament.

In the Gospel, Jesus sums up His ministry on earth. It is His own personal Mission Statement. Luke tells us that, Jesus read from the Prophet Isaiah: “God has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to bring freedom to captives, to lead the blind, and to free the oppressed.”

Jesus then sat down and explained to them that today this Scripture passage is being fulfilled in their hearing. Jesus was telling them that He was the long waited Messiah sent by God, the Father, and anointed by God, the Holy Spirit, to bring wholeness, salvation, justice, peace, and healing to a broken world. This is a really Good News to the people.

This is not just a story in the Gospel. This is our story of salvation. Jesus came for our sake and for our salvation to fulfill God’s promise. He came to set us free from the slavery of sin and the fear of death.

God’s power alone can save us from hopelessness, fear, spiritual emptiness, and despair. This is a really Good News for us, too.

Sometimes, many situations in this fallen world can make us feel discouragement, hopelessness, despair. And, problems and struggles can wear us down physically, emotionally, and mentally, and can even erode our faith. But, today’s readings remind us that the Lord is always among us and He will save us. We are never alone when we know Christ, and we can trust Him to help us.

Life sometimes takes us through hard places. But, even in the midst of them, God is with us, and nothing can happen to us that is beyond His ability to help.

So, Saint Paul says, “we can rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope.”

Being joyful always may seem hard, but put your hope in Christ, and thank Him that He will never abandon you. This is His eternal promise to us.

Jesus proclaims, “Today, this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” It means that those who were spiritually or emotionally blind would be enlightened, now being able to see the way, the truth, and the life.

It means that those who were captives of sins and slaves of evil would be free now. It means that those who were spiritually poor and hungry for God would finally have an eternal happiness in Christ. It happens right here right now when we trust Him.

As we hear the mission statement of Jesus in the Gospel tosay, we also are given His call to bring glad tidings to the poor, to the imprisoned, to the blind, the oppressed, and the helpless.

As we continue the celebration of the Holy Mass, let us pray for one another, that through our Christian Unity, the Body of Christ may come to its fullness, so God’s promise to us may be fulfilled in our lives!