

Saturday, 4th week of Eastertide

Readings of the mass – Acts 13:44-52, Psalm 97(98):1-4, John 14:7-14

“To have seen me is to have seen the Father”. Yes, when we gaze at Jesus, we see the mercy and the goodness of the Father. Jesus has brought us salvation by conquering sin and death and thus being the way to the Father, to heaven. ‘He has made **known** His salvation’ sings the psalmist! God has made known His only begotten Son, and He in turn commanded the disciples to make known this good news of salvation to the ends of the earth and the psalm is fulfilled as it reaches all corners of the earth. Now, what do we need salvation from? Certainly, from sin – the lack of charity towards our neighbour.

The old Adam failed to teach his son Cain brotherly love as a result of the fall and thus resulted in death. The new Adam, Christ, teaches us how to love **even** our enemies – “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing”, resulting in life. How easy for me to say this but notice how he did not say, ‘may they receive what their deeds deserved’ rather said “forgive them”. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”. And so, He teaches us the way, becomes the way, of perfect charity. The Lord promised us that “whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself”, in fact “he will perform even greater works”. We see this in the protomartyr St. Stephen whose final words were “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (Acts 7:60). Though his executioners’ acts were sinful, St. Stephen further reveals to us the mind of Christ, who desired that all people should be saved (1 Tim 2:4).

We too can, like this open our hearts even to people who might be ‘the furthest away from Grace’ in our mindset. Consequently, through us the Holy Spirit can continue the work of salvation to those who have never heard it before.

Jithin Titto, 9/5/20