

ICCH
International Catholic Community of Heidelberg
St. Michael's Church
Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

Today's readings:
Zec 12:10-11; 13:1 | Gal 3:26-29 | Lk
9:18-24

Welcome Father Peter

June 19, 2016 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The virtue of faith and the necessity of faith is the dominating theme of today's readings. Faith is our personal response to a God who continues to reveal himself to us and invites us to recognize his holiness and beauty. Bible shows us the ways in which God reveals himself to human persons and invites him to respond in faith. Every situation in the world presents a very great contrast between human powerlessness in the face of sickness and death on the one hand, and the striking force of faith on the other. We are in a constant relationship with a God of wonder who transforms us, heals us and removes our pains



and transforms them into joy. Faith works miracles and there are the thousands of small miracles that no-one notices them except those concerned. Both Luke and Paul, as we reflect in today's readings, for all their differences of emphasis, share the same faith and understanding of Jesus. Both of them see the continuity from cross to resurrection, and both of them look back through the resurrection to see the cross. When Luke focuses on Jesus' coming Passion, he does so in resurrection light, affirming that Jesus is, as Peter says, "the Messiah of God." When Paul emphasizes that we are heirs according to the promise, he does so on the basis that we are baptized into Christ, which means as he has already explained that we have been crucified with Christ, and as he wrote to the Romans that all of us who have been baptized into Christ were baptized into his death. The word of God today speaks about sacrifice and promise, losing one's life and being saved by the Crucified One.

The lesson intended for us in the passage of the Gospel is given by Jesus in the last few lines. A true follower of Christ if he values eternal life must be ready to carry his cross and if necessary must be ready to be nailed to it, as Christ was. We are Christians because we sincerely want to have the eternal life he came on earth to give us. He went through the excruciating death by crucifixion, the most painful and humiliating type of execution then known. He did so in order to enable us to merit heaven. He was the Son of God and was sinless and he took them on himself for our sake. Today we are called upon to imitate him and follow him carrying our daily crosses. At the same time we thank God for the gift of faith he has given us and the invitation to be with him and to love him deeply as his followers and witnesses. We need that fidelity and trust in him.

[Fr Eugene Lobo S.J. Bangalore, India, Shortened from <https://msjnov.wordpress.com/2016/06/12/twelfth-sunday-of-the-year-june-19-2016/>]

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