

## Ordinary Time 3B 2015

One of the themes I try to communicate in my homilies is this: *Whether we know it or not, whether we acknowledge it or not, God is always active in our lives.* We may not hear the voice of God in our lives, and we may not perceive the action of God in our world, but God is active in our lives and in the world about us, whether we know it or not. This is why St. Paul writes in today's second reading that the world in its present form is passing away. The old world of sin and death is passing away because, whether we see it or not, whether we acknowledge it or not, and the kingdom of God is taking shape and form in our world and in our lives.

I know this is difficult to believe. I know that it contradicts what we experience most days. We look at the world about us, and the powers of violence and terror appear to be growing. We look at the world about us, and the powers of greed and selfishness seem stronger than ever. We look at the world about us, and we ask, "Where is God? Where is God's kingdom?"

Jesus also lived in a world marked by violence and terror, a world in which people exploited and treated each other unfairly. But Jesus understood better than anyone else that this world, in which the powers of sin and death are at work, is passing away. He understood that God was at work in his life, and so he proclaimed the kingdom of God is at hand. God rules over our lives and the life of the world, even though we cannot always see this. The power of God is slowly but

surely overcoming the power of evil, even though we are not always aware of it. God is at work in our lives and in the world because the kingdom of God—God's rule over our lives—is forever breaking into our lives.

But if we want to see how God is at work in our life and in the life of the world, we must repent and believe in the gospel Jesus proclaims. We must set aside our old way of thinking that says everything will always be the same, and adopt a new way of thinking that believes in the power of God to change and transform our lives.

The kingdom of God is at the center of everything Jesus says and does. The kingdom of God is the power of God at work in our life and the world about us. The kingdom of God is the power of God's Spirit at work in our lives and in the life of the world in which we live. This is why St. Paul writes that the world in its present form is passing away. This is why Jesus calls us to repent and believe in the gospel lest we remained mired in the world of sin and death. The kingdom of God is already present to us if only we open our eyes, if only we open our ears. This is why we must repent; this is why we must look at ourselves and world about us in a new way. We must look at ourselves and the world in the light of God.