

Ordinary Time 5B 2015

Thy Kingdom God

For the past few weeks, we have been reading from the beginning of the Gospel of St. Mark, in which St. Mark describes the first days of Jesus' ministry. *Two weeks ago*, for example, we heard the central theme of Jesus' ministry: the kingdom of God is at hand. *Last week*, the Gospel focused our attention on the powerful way in which Jesus spoke and taught with authority. *And today*, St. Mark describes how Jesus inaugurates the kingdom. *First* he enters the house of Simon Peter and cures his mother-in-law. *Then* the entire town comes to Peter's house, and Jesus cures the sick and drives out demons. By the time Jesus is finish, everyone has been healed. No one is sick; and no one is under the power of Satan because the kingdom of God has made its appearance in Jesus' ministry. The kingdom of God brings health; the kingdom of God frees people from the demonic powers that rule over their lives.

All of have experienced some form of illness at one time or another. It may be something as annoying as a cold, or it may be as dangerous and life-threatening as cancer. At such moments we become aware of weakness and mortality, our need for the salvation that only God can bring. At other times we experience those demons that rule over and control our lives: demons of hatred and jealousy,

demons of greed and lust, demons of addiction and self-destructive behavior. At such moments, we realize that we are not in control of our lives. There are other forces and powers—destructive powers and forces—that rule over our lives.

At such moments we need to place ourselves under the rule of God so that we can enter the kingdom of God. *This kingdom of God*, which Jesus proclaims, is God's rule over our lives, and we enter it every time we submit our lives to God in Jesus Christ. *This kingdom* rules over, changes and transforms our lives, every time we acknowledge that Jesus is the Lord of our lives. *This kingdom of God* is why we exist as a church—it is the reason for our Christian faith.

At the present time this kingdom is hidden. It requires faith and trust on our part to see and experience it. But there will be a day when this kingdom will come in all of its power and glory. And when it does, there will be no more sickness, and the power of Satan will no longer rule over our lives. For this world and all we know and love will be transformed by the kingdom of God.

This is why it is important for us, even now, to enter the kingdom of God by making Jesus Christ the Lord and Ruler of our lives. This is why, even now, we pray for healing from sickness and those demons that rule over our lives. This is why we pray “thy kingdom come.”