

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Tuesday of 29th week in ordinary Time, 2020

Eph 2:12-22

Ps. 85

Luke 12:35-38

Wait For the Lord

Dear friends in Christ, lamps are very useful to give light in a time of darkness. The real worth of a lamp is in its ability to provide that light when the need arises.

In the first reading of today, Paul tells us that Jesus is our peace and the one who breaks down the barriers that used to separate the Jews from the Gentiles. He may have been using the separation that the different courts of the temple represent to teach this lesson. The Gentiles were only allowed into certain parts of the Temple called the Court of the Gentiles. Some of the Jewish converts were also insisting on circumcision for the Gentile converts as well. He says, “So then, you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Why the divisions among us?

In the gospel, Jesus instructs the disciples to be like men who are waiting for the arrival of their master. In any home with servants, they are usually at alert waiting to make sure that the master does not return to find them not ready. A disciple must approach the second coming of the Lord with all the seriousness it demands. With ‘girded loins and lamps it’—this expression symbolises the sort of good works that must characterise the time of waiting. It must not be an idle wait but an active waiting for the coming of the Lord. Jesus describes what the reward for an active wait looks like. “Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes, truly I say to you, he will put on his apron and have them sit at table, and he will come and serve them.” This is obviously not the usual situation where the servant may at the most receive praise from the master. Jesus brings something

new to it, he will serve the faithful disciples in the kingdom. The wait may be long, as long as the third watch almost into the morning hours but the reward is just as great to have the master take the role of the servant. Jesus gave a practical example when at the last supper he washed the feet of his disciples. We are not in doubt that he will do what he promised. Are you ready for him?

Let us pray: O God, give us the patience and grace to wait for the coming of our Lord in his glory and so share the eternal reward. Amen.

+ Remain blessed