

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

“On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.’”

What? Why go to Jesus if you're thirsty? What's he going to give? We have plenty of pop, flavored water, drinking water, coffee and various other drinks. What is he going to give when we have so much to drink, as well as a world of distractions enough to satisfy nearly all possible longings?

Could it be though that we've been distracted to the point that we deceived and led away from what our necessary, real, and true thirsts are? The world leads us to believe that good is evil and evil is good, that true is fake and fake is true, and our own nature puts our wants as needs to be satisfied immediately because we deserve it. Our priorities get skewed.

What do we thirst for? How about the need to be important, to be powerful, to have the most of whatever we can get, to be loved and to really live and not just exist, to be the most interesting man or woman in the world.

If these things are what we thirst for then how is Jesus who lived two thousand years ago going to meet our thirsts today? After all, the world and some leaders of the world say he's irrelevant or pay lip service to him but live lives that show that to them he is irrelevant.

So how do we act, how do you and I act in the lives we live, the public image we project and the private image of who we actually are. Can Jesus, does Jesus, satisfy our thirsts?

We have Jesus whose words, whose life tells us that no matter who we are he loves us enough to die for us. He showed us his love for children, zealots, fishermen and tax collectors, women who were considered to be immoral, lepers, Samaritans and Roman soldiers, for you, for me.

Jesus wants those who thirst for attention, who thirst for acceptance, who thirst for forgiveness, who thirst for love to come to him and be satisfied, his love isn't conditional, it's not tentative, it's not a bargaining chip. It doesn't matter what we've done, left undone, said or left unsaid. His love doesn't depend upon you or me at all, he loves us and died for us who are sinners each and everyone of us. Our value my beloved sisters and brothers isn't in what we can do or what we've done with our lives, no, our value is that each of us is a child of God and God's only Son our Lord Jesus gave his life for us paying for our sins of commission and omission.

Christ crucified for our thirst for distractions, attention, power, things, pleasure; Christ crucified, dead and buried. It was finished. But no! It's not finished, the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, Christ is risen, risen indeed! And our risen Christ sends

the Holy Spirit to be with us, our Advocate, Living Water, who satisfies our thirst and reminds us that we are children of God, receiving the Spirit and being adopted in and through our baptisms.

Jesus wants you, loves you, treasures you and has slaked our thirst with living water, and now dear friends, living water fills us and flows from us, inviting us to share the Holy Spirit and quench the thirst of others. We share that which gives abundant life, lived for eternity.

As I said last week, most of us don't think a great deal about our own deaths, we know we will die, born to live but facing inevitable death. But the living water provided by Jesus gives us eternal life.

Today is called Pentecost because the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, living water, to the first disciples of Jesus, it happened on the Jewish festival of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity leads us to faith and keeps in fellowship with God at all times.

Whatever the problems we face, whatever our thirsts might be, with the Holy Spirit, we have the hope and the joy of salvation, because the Spirit with us, lives in us, and will guide us to our font of living water.

AMEN