



Judgment, Mercy and Purgatory

RCIA at St. Sylvester Church

Segment 9

Opening Prayer

Lord,

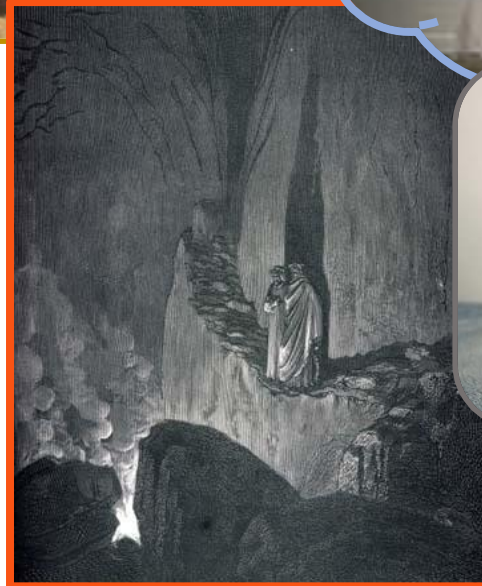
Thank you for your love, your kindness and your mercy. Help us to receive your Holy Spirit so that we may come to a fuller understanding of all that you desire for us. Guide us to know your ways and your plan for our eternal salvation.

Amen



Tonight – “The Last Things”

- Death
- Heaven
 - Purgatory
- Hell
- Judgment
 - Mercy



Foresight of “Last Things” should influence how we live our earthly life

The Last Things

“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him. Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit.” *1 Corinthians 2:9-10*



The Last Things

- God desires that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of truth – 1 Timothy 2:4
- Basis of our reflection on death, judgment, heaven, purgatory, hell, and eternal life with God
- Eternal communion with God is a mystery
 - Beyond human understanding or description

“THE TRUTH IS LIKE A LION.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND IT.
LET IT LOOSE.
IT WILL DEFEND ITSELF.”

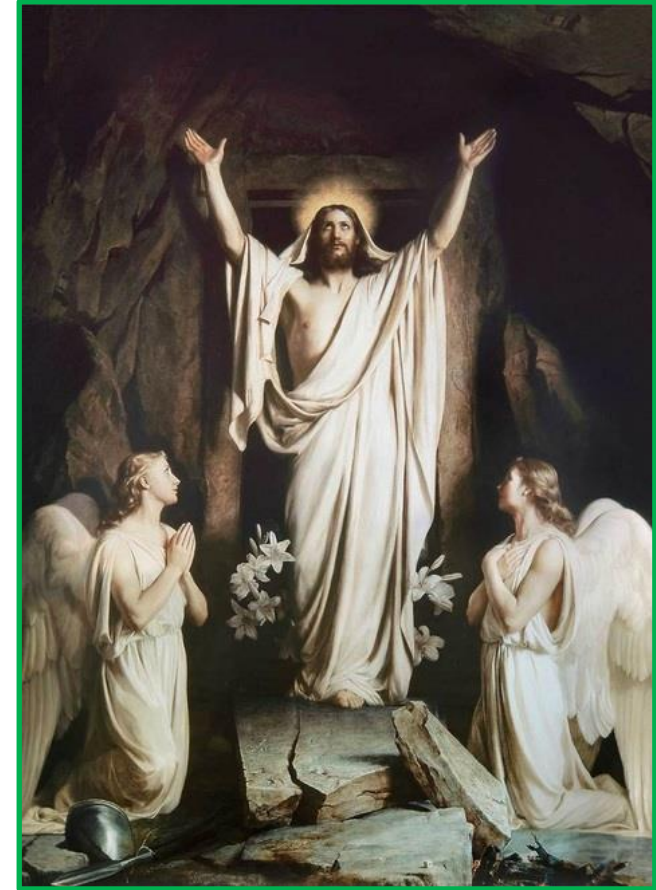
- ST. AUGUSTINE



Death

The soul separated from the body

- An eventual state for all of us
 - Mortality urges us to bring fulfillment to the gift of our earthly life—desired communion with God
- Death is a consequence of original sin (CCC 1008)
- But death has been transformed by Christ
 - Those baptized are born spiritually with Christ
 - Likewise at our death, we die with Christ
 - So that we can be resurrected with Christ (CCC 1010)
- Body and soul reunited at the Last Judgment



Heaven

- Eternal and perfect life with the Holy Trinity
 - For those who die in God's grace and friendship (CCC 1023-1024)
 - Ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longing
- Blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ (CCC 1026; Mt 5:44-48; Mt 19:21)
- The elect live in Christ and find their true identity (CCC 1025)
- Continue joyfully to fulfill God's will in relation to other people and all creation (CCC 1029)

Purgatory

- Final purification of those who die in friendship with God
 - Needed to achieve holiness (perfection of God's love)
- Not a place per se, nor bounded by time
 - Time of the heart
- The Church encourages us to pray for the dead
 - An aid to those undergoing purification of purgatory
 - Judas Maccabeus prays for dead comrades – 2 Maccabees 12:38-45

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pj2Z1yNpzc0>

Hell

- Eternal separation from God (CCC 1033-1037)
 - Not God's punishment, but a choice of free will – self exclusion
 - An eternal choice – not so much living as we know it now, just existing
- Dying in mortal sin
 - Refuse to accept God's love & forgiveness
 - Accepting feelings of apathy & slothfulness (missing Mass regularly)
 - Lack of trust and faith in God
 - Being self-absorbed – ignoring the plight of the poor and needy
- Not building a life of thanksgiving, praise, and love for God
 - Going through the motions with no desire to know the faith
 - Don't be a lukewarm or cafeteria Catholic

Judgment

- The Church teaches that there are two judgments
 - First, a particular judgment (CCC 1021)
 - Second, the Final Judgment (CCC 1038)
- Particular judgment – comes right after death
 - Enter into Heaven (directly or through Purgatory)
 - Everlasting damnation in Hell



In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone – St. John of the Cross

- Final Judgment – final encounter at Christ’s second coming
 - All mysteries of our life will be revealed to us
 - We know our true identity and our place in God’s plan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FMgVbcLagM>

Divine Mercy

- Mercy is loving kindness, compassion or forbearance shown to one who offends
- Divine Mercy is central to God's plan of salvation
 - The name Jesus means "God Saves"
- Divine Mercy woven throughout Jesus' ministry
 - He eats with sinners restoring acceptance in society
 - He forgives sins offering spiritual healing
 - Parable of Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-24) overturns conventions
- Justice must be served before mercy can be extended & understood
 - To receive God's mercy, we must admit our faults (CCC 1847)
- The Final Judgment will be the culmination of God's merciful love



Closing Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name

Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Amen

