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First Reading: Acts 14:21-27
Response: *"I will bless your name forever, O God my King"* (Ps.144:1)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144:8-13
Second Reading: Apocalypse 21:1-5
Gospel: John 13:31-35

The presence of the Risen Lord gives us courage and a fresh heart in us to work with him in the building of his Kingdom. He gives us the new commandment of love and encourages us with the promise of a new Jerusalem.

Paul and Barnabas encourage the early Christians facing trials and tribulations for the sake of Christ. Triumph will follow their trials, and victory after the battle. *"We all have to experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God"* (Acts 14:22).

Paul and Barnabas give a report of their whole missionary journey. *"They gave an account to the Church of all that God had done with them"* (Acts 14:27). Barnabas' name could stand for "son of encouragement." *Can we be encouragers of others, like Barnabas?*

The Christian praises God with a psalm of David. Praise is given to God, not only for what he does, but also for who he is -- loving, just and faithful. It proclaims the greatness of God and praises his glory. *"I will bless your name forever, O God my King"* (Ps.144:1)

For the Christian, it expresses his faith in the Risen Lord and willingness to work with him in the building of his Kingdom, *"an everlasting kingdom"* (Ps.144:13). This psalm of David is acrostic, where each verse begins with a different Hebrew letter in alphabetical order.

In God's kingdom, John saw *"a new heaven and a new earth"* (Apoc.21:1), where there will be no more weeping. *"God will wipe away all tears from their eyes"* (Apoc.21:4k,)

As the Bible began with the story of creation, so it ends with a new creation. *"Now I am making the whole of creation new"* (Apoc.21:5). Instead of our going up to meet the Lord, he comes down to be with us, as he did in the Incarnation. And so the disciple of God sees *"the new Jerusalem coming down from out of heaven"* (Apoc.21:2).

There no place for sin in the Holy City. *"When Judas had gone Jesus said: "Now has the Son of Man been glorified"* (Jn.13:31). Glorification refers to his impending crucifixion, an expression of God's tremendous love. God is love. Love is milieu of the Kingdom of God.

That is what is required to be a citizen of the Holy City, the *"new commandment"* (Jn. 13:34) that Jesus gives us. *"By this love, every one will know that you are my disciples"* (Jn.13:35).

Read and reflect upon the **Gospel** for today. See the power of Jesus' new commandment.

How do you show and express love and fellowship in the Liturgy? –Greeting of peace.

The Church gives a **Teaching** on the new commandment of love. *Will we live up to it?*

Witness to being a member of the Kingdom by your love and concern for others.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Read and share with children the Gospel of the day (Jn.13: 31-35). *New commandment?*

How do we greet one another in the greeting of peace in the Eucharist? Show love?

Give the children a Teaching on what Jesus means by loving and serving one another.

Children decide on ways that they can Witness their love for Jesus and for neighbour.

FOR TEENAGERS (*Shared Christian Praxis*)

Name the Present Action: *What is your take on new Creation, new Jerusalem, new Commandment and Kingdom of God?*

Your Story and Vision: Share your experiences and your dreams of a new life.

Church's Story and Vision: *Give Church's teaching on building the Kingdom of God.*

Yours and Church's Vision: See ways of working together for the building of the Kingdom.

RCIA

Those who walked the journey of faith right up until Easter are now fully initiated Christians. A new group begin the journey. We invited the old group to join in to serve in many ways enabling others on the new journey of faith and helping to build the Kingdom of God.

LIFE EXPERIENCE

In pondering God's new creation and where we are going, I am struck by Joe Wright's prayer at the opening session of a Kansas Senate meeting He asked God for forgiveness for what we have done, having lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

"We exploited the poor and called it lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and call it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and call it choice.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbour's possessions and called it ambition.

We polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our fathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"

A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest.

The Central Christian Church of Rev. Wright is now receiving international requests for his prayer.

My prayer is that in our land and beyond, we all pray for the truths of our life, faith and country.

LITTLE ANGELINA

Little Angelina was arguing with her mother about what she liked to eat and what she didn't like. I wondered how I could share with her an experience. It was about another child far away in Peru. I was visiting the *barriadas*, squatters in Lima, and we came across a big hole in the ground. I looked into it and there looking up, was a little child, with a cup of water beside him. I asked my guide what it meant. He explained that the mother had gone to look for work, not having anyone to look after her child, she left him in the hole until she got back. The child looked up expectantly, waiting to see the face of his mother. I felt like jumping into the hole and holding the child, put some clean water in his dusty cup, and even to find him a toy to play with while he waited. He sat there alone, the whole day, in the sun, in the hole. I had simply walked on. I would do anything to recapture the moment and reach out to the child. How do I share all that with little Angelina?

IMPORTANT WORD: *Barnabas* (*Acts 4:36ff, 9:27, 11:25-30, 12:24-15:39*)

In Acts of Apostles, we see Paul and Barnabas in Jerusalem, giving a report of their apostolic works. The news is encouraging. Barnabas actually means encouragement or *ben-nahamah*, 'son of consolation' (*Acts 4:36*). They brought encouragement and consolation to the Church as much as it needs ours today. Encourage and strengthen others in their faith.

Watchword: “*I give you a new commandment*” (Jn. 13:34)

Hebrew: מצוה חדשה אני נתן לכם Mitsvah *hadashah* ‘ani nothen lakem

Greek: Εντολην καινην διδωμι υμιν. Entolen kainen didomi humin.

Latin: Mandatum novem do vobis.

Portuguese: Um novo mandamento vos dou.

Spanish: Un mandamiento nuevo os doy.

French: Je vous donne un commandement nouveau.

German: Ein neues Gebot gebe ich euch.

Afrikaans: Ek gee julle 'n nuwe gebot.

Zulu: Ngininika umthetho omusha.

Xhosa: Ndiniwisela umthetho omtsha.

Sotho: Ke le nea taelo e ntjha.

Irish: Ta aithne nua a tabhairt agam daoibh.