**THURSDAY JUNE 23 – XII WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'**

**Why is prophesying in the name of God, driving out demons and performing mighty deeds not a way of salvation? Because those are those who accomplish these things even declared evildoers? All these things do not save because one is the way of salvation: the obedience to the Word of the Lord. Everything that is done without the obedience to the Word do not save. Neither the worship saves, and not even the sacraments. The faithfulness to the sworn obedience, to the Gospel on which foundation every sacrament is celebrated saves. Two texts of the Old Testament can help us understand well:** “**Hear the word of the LORD, princes of Sodom! Listen to the instruction of our God, people of Gomorrah! What care I for the number of your sacrifices? says the LORD. I have had enough of whole-burnt rams and fat of fatlings; In the blood of calves, lambs and goats I find no pleasure. When you come in to visit me, who asks these things of you? Trample my courts no more! Bring no more worthless offerings; your incense is loathsome to me. New moon and sabbath, calling of assemblies, octaves with wickedness: these I cannot bear. Your new moons and festivals I detest; they weigh me down, I tire of the load. When you spread out your hands, I close my eyes to you; Though you pray the more, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood! Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool. If you are willing, and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land; But if you refuse and resist, the sword shall consume you: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken! (Is 1, 10-20)**

**Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Heap your holocausts upon your sacrifices; eat up the flesh! In speaking to your fathers on the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I gave them no command concerning holocaust or sacrifice. This rather is what I commanded them: Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper. But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their evil hearts and turned their backs, not their faces, to me. From the day that your fathers left the land of Egypt even to this day, I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets. Yet they have not obeyed me nor paid heed; they have stiffened their necks and done worse than their fathers. When you speak all these words to them, they will not listen to you either; when you call to them, they will not answer you. Say to them: This is the nation which does not listen to the voice of the LORD, its God, or take correction. Faithfulness has disappeared; the word itself is banished from their speech. (Jer 7, 21-28) Now, if neither the worship nor the celebrated sacraments save, no other thing might be a way of true salvation. The way of the true salvation is only one: the obedience to the Word of the Covenant, to the Word of the Gospel on which foundation has the New Covenant been stipulated with Christ Jesus’s blood.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 7,21-29**

**"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined." When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.**

**Our eternal rock is Christ Jesus and his Word. In Christ, through Christ, with Christ, the Father and the Holy Spirit are our rock. The Virgin Mary, too, in her love toward us that is of conversion and of full obedience to the Word is. If we depart from the eternal rock that is Christ Jesus, our house will always be built on the sand and it will always collapse for it is not founded on the only rock giving solidity. It urges it to be said with great clarity. God is not our rock and neither the Holy Spirit. It is not the Gospel or the Word of revelation. Our only and unique eternal rock is Christ Jesus. In Him, Jesus eternal rock is his Word. In Him is the Father and the Holy Spirit. In Him is the Virgin Mary. In Him are the sacraments of salvation. In Him is grace and truth, justice and peace, mercy and forgiveness. In Him, only in Him.**