**21 AUGUST – XXI SUNDAY O.T. [C]**

**Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”**

**The question that is addressed to Jesus is of pure curiosity. Jesus accepts the question, but He replies with most pure truth. Knowing if many or few are those who are saved is of no use. Instead, everyone must know in every moment if one is saved or excluded from the eternal kingdom of heaven. Both from the Old and from the New Testament we know who has walked toward the exclusion from the eternal tent of God. Here is who will be accepted on the holy mountain of the Lord according to the Old Testament: “Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.” (Psal 24,3-5). Here is the list of the sins that exclude from having the kingdom of God according to the New Testament: *“*Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor practicing homosexuals nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.(cf. 1Cor 6,9-11). Thus the Revelation warns every man: “Then he said to me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words of this book, for the appointed time is near. Let the wicked still act wickedly, and the filthy still be filthy. The righteous must still do right, and the holy still be holy." "Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates. Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the unchaste, the murderers, the idol-worshipers, and all who love and practice deceit.” (Rev 22,10-15). Whoever lives in one of the sins contained in this list should know that he will be excluded from the heavenly Jerusalem. There will be no space for him in it. He has not walked in the Word of Christ Jesus. He has not listened to his voice. Here is why Jesus asks everyone: “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”. On the way to the kingdom of heaven, once one has gone through, one must persevere until the end, for only the one who will persevere will enjoy the delight of dwelling with the Lord eternally. In the holy town of heaven nothing impure will enter. Whoever believes in the Word of Jesus is converted, abandons the way of evil, takes the way of good and walks through it until reaching the gates of the town where the Lord dwells eternally. Whoever does not believe in the Word of Jesus will persevere in evil, deceiving and deluding himself. He thinks he is already saved, while actually he does nothing but slipping each day more toward the eternal darkness. Whoever believes in the Words of Jesus is saved. For the one who does not believe there is no salvation. He has handed himself over to evil.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 13,22-30**

**He passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from.' And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where (you) are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."**

**Today, the world of the disciples of Jesus, abolishing and abrogating, eluding and denying the entire Word of the Gospel, has first created their own God totally different from the God who revealed himself in the Sacred Pages of the Scripture. The God of the Christians is a God all mercy, all forgiveness, all compassion. He is a God who, at the moment of our entrance into eternity, knows one only gate: that leading into his eternal dwelling. The other gate, that opening on the eternal perdition, no longer exists. So far it is commonly thought that there are no darkness, neither on earth nor after death. There is no perdition neither during life nor after having left this world. We do not say, though, that this God who is all and only mercy, piety, forgiveness, acceptance, is the God we have built. Our God is built on the measure of our sin. Since we want to persevere in sin, then we need a God for whom sin does not even exist. Being the God we have built false, falsity is everything that is attributed to this God. On the contrary, Jesus does not speak from the faith in a God He has built. He speaks from the most pure truth of his Father who is the Lord of heaven and of earth, who is righteousness and mercy, forgiveness but also eternal judgment on each action of men. May the Mother of God and our Mother obtain for us a most pure faith in every Word of her Son.**