## Thus he declared all foods clean

## Jn 2,4-9.1 5-17; Psal 103; Mk 7,14-23

### 13 FEBRUARY

The Book of Leviticus contains a detailed list both of every animal that a child of Israel could eat and of every other one he could not eat. This list strictly obliged everyone. The unclean animal that was eaten made man unclean. Jesus abrogates this old law about the uncleanness that defiles by eating an unclean animal. According to Jesus, what comes out from heart defiles.

*The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: Of all land animals these are the ones you may eat: any animal that has hoofs you may eat, provided it is cloven-footed and chews the cud. But you shall not eat any of the following that only chew the cud or only have hoofs: the camel, which indeed chews the cud, but does not have hoofs and is therefore unclean for you; the rock badger, which indeed chews the cud, but does not have hoofs and is therefore unclean for you; the hare, which indeed chews the cud, but does not have hoofs and is therefore unclean for you; and the pig, which does indeed have hoofs and is cloven-footed, but does not chew the cud and is therefore unclean for you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their dead bodies you shall not touch; they are unclean for you. "Of the various creatures that live in the water, you may eat the following: whatever in the seas or in river waters has both fins and scales you may eat. But of the various creatures that crawl or swim in the water, whether in the sea or in the rivers, all those that lack either fins or scales are loathsome for you, and you shall treat them as loathsome. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their dead bodies you shall loathe. Every water creature that lacks fins or scales is loathsome for you. "Of the birds, these you shall loathe and, as loathsome, they shall not be eaten: the eagle, the vulture, the osprey, the kite, the various species of falcons, the various species of crows, the ostrich, the nightjar, the gull, the various species of hawks, the owl, the cormorant, the screech owl, the barn owl, the desert owl, the buzzard, the stork, the various species of herons, the hoopoe, and the bat. "The various winged insects that walk on all fours are loathsome for you. But of the various winged insects that walk on all fours you may eat those that have jointed legs for leaping on the ground; hence of these you may eat the following: the various kinds of locusts, the various kinds of grasshoppers, the various kinds of katydids, and the various kinds of crickets. All other winged insects that have four legs are loathsome for you. "Such is the uncleanness that you contract, that everyone who touches their dead bodies shall be unclean until evening, and everyone who picks up any part of their dead bodies shall wash his garments and be unclean until evening. (Lev 11,1-25).*

Jesus manifests himself as Lord of the Law of the Father. He knows what has eternal value and what had historical and therefore temporary value, instead. All ritual Law of the Book of Leviticus is abrogated. Only the moral Law remains, which is immutable through the centuries. The new Law is taken by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, which is clothed with eternal immutability. The will of the Father is revealed in it in its highest truth. If anyone - even an Angel of God - wanted to add something, he could not. It has absolute, divine, eternal perfection. All mankind is in it.

*He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." When he got home away from the crowd his disciples questioned him about the parable. He said to them, "Are even you likewise without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters not the heart but the stomach and passes out into the latrine?" (**Thus he declared all foods clean.) "But what comes out of a person, that is what defiles. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.*

The Word of Christ Jesus is of the purity of heart, of mind, of thoughts, of desires, of the will, of the soul, of the spirit, of the body. Purity is the use of human nature in each of its part according to the truth of nature. When the truth of nature, created by God in his image and likeness, become nature of the body of Christ by redemption, nature made spiritual by the Holy Spirit, is not respected, then man is unclean. If one is unclean, he also makes unclean things. They arise from his unclean nature.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, let us become of most pure nature according to the Word.