**01 AUGUST 2021 – XVIII SUNDAY O.T. [B]**

**“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal."**

**The seal the Father set on Jesus is not only a seal of royal, prophetical, priestly consecration. It is not even solely the seal of the Holy Spirit in which he was consecrated so that he fulfils the mission the Father entrusted to him. The seal is first an eternal seal. It is a seal of eternal generation. Here is how this truth is revealed both in the Old and in the New Testament:**

**"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession” (Psal 2, 6-7)**

**The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power,****in holy garments;** **from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.****The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." (Psal 110, 1-4)**

**But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. (Is 11, 1-4)**

**For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, Until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all kings your glory; You shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. (Is 61, 1-2)**

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.” (cf. Jn 1, 1- 18)**

**In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (Heb 1-4)**

**The seal of the Father is before time, in time, and even after time. Here is the seal after time, after his death, with his glorious resurrection and ascension to heaven: "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth." I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing." Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever." The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. (cf. Rev 5, 1-14)**

**Jesus is the only one who was consecrated with this seal. No one else was consecrated in eternity. No one else in time. No one else after time. Every other consecration and every other seal is only in view of Christ or in Christ, for Christ, with Christ. Today this truth has failed. The Disciples of Jesus confer on every other man the same consecration that is only of Jesus the Lord. Compared to our betrayal, the betrayal of Judas is similar in all to a grain of sand before a high mountain. Our betrayal is the high mountain.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 6,24-35**

**When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.**

**One can and must believe in Jesus. Believing in Christ is the work the Father asks us to fulfil. But what does it mean to believe in Christ Jesus? It means believing in every Word coming out of his mouth. The Jews seek the material bread. Jesus says to them that man does not live of bread alone, but he lives of every word coming out of his mouth. His Word is the true Word of God. To his word, one should give the same faith given to the Word of God with no difference. What do the Jews have to believe? That Jesus is the true bread from Heaven: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” This faith is not only for the Jews. But it is for every man of every time. Today this faith is no longer believed. The prophecy of Jeremiah is fulfilling in us:** “**Be amazed at this, O heavens, and shudder with sheer horror, says the LORD. Two evils have my people done: they have forsaken me, the source of living waters; They have dug themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water.” (Jer 2,12-13).**

**Not only did the Christian abandon Christ Jesus, the only source of living water descended from heaven and dig cisterns, broken cisterns that do no longer contain water; moreover, instead of showing the world the true source of living water that is Christ Jesus, he is declaring true all the broken cisterns, with no water, that man is digging or has dug on his own. However, being only Christ the bread and the water of true life, if we do not eat Him, bread of truth and light, and we do not drink Him, water of eternal life and grace, we will be always consumed by our hunger and our thirst. Showing men other cisterns is true denial, true betrayal of Jesus the Lord. May the Mother of God preserve us from such severe and horrible sins. The only source is Christ.**