



I am a fan of the Seinfeld Show television reruns. No matter how many time I have seen certain episodes, I can still laugh at loud at the antics of the main characters, especially George and Kramer. In one the episodes, Jerry Seinfeld does a funny bit on waiting in a doctor's office. He says all the waiting people are checking each other out and wondering what brought them to the doctor. He says eventually your name is called and it is like you graduated from High School. You stand up proudly and look at the rest of the people as if you are the chosen one, and somehow better than they are. However, he says the waiting is not over. Then you are brought to the little room and told that doctor will be right with you, which of course is akin to waiting for the cable television tech to arrive at your home.

If we are lucky enough to sleep eight hours a night, then we are spending a third of our lives sleeping. Many people work at least eight hours a day and that pretty much is another third of your life. So, you have a third of your life for the rest of your living. Sometimes, I think I spend the other third of my life waiting on lines in stores, waiting for the red lights to change to green, waiting for annoying television commercials to end, sitting in traffic on the Belt Parkway, and waiting for my computer to turn on. There are all kinds of waiting that we do in life. Much of it is of course rather frustrating and leads one to grow rather impatient and sometimes angry. Waiting can lead to frustration and high blood pressure. I know that many people get very upset with their loves ones who never seem to be able to say goodbye and leave an event. I still tease my sister about a dinner we attended that was very nice. It was a lovely event. Generally, I am bit restless soul; once I decide to leave, I get up and leave. She is a lingerer. So, just as we had pushed back from the chairs and said it is late, and I was standing up to go, she asked for a glass of ginger ale. That glass of ginger ale cost us at least another hour. Waiting,

Yet, there is another kind of waiting that is far different. It is a waiting that is rather joyful and filled with anticipation. I think of couples planning their wedding and how excited they are as the days of the wedding draw near. Certainly, everyone in a family is happy and excited for a baby to be born. I think the mother might wish the baby was born in the next hour. Children of all ages look forward with great anticipation for Christmas. When I was in the seminary, when ordination was seven or years away, our directors told us that their time will pass by very quickly. I do not think we believed them until the night before my ordination when I could not sleep and was amazed at how fast the time went. How often I hear parents at First Communion, graduations, at weddings, say how amazed they are at how fast their children have grown up. They wonder how did the time pass so quickly.

In our scripture reading today, we see the Church waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on them. Our first reading today from *The Acts of the Apostles* tells us that the apostles, after Jesus ascended to the Father, gathered in the very room where they had celebrated the Last Supper. We also hear that Mary the mother of Jesus is also there. I wonder what that waiting was like for them. Were they sad that Jesus had returned to the Father? Were they anxious about what might happen to them if the authorities found them? Were they excited about the coming outpouring of the Holy Spirit on them, and sending them forth for their mission to proclaim the Gospel. It is a kind of in between time, with Jesus having gone back to the Father, and their waiting for the promised spirit. Living in in between times, living with waiting and uncertainty is not always comfortable. We say, I can't stand the waiting. It is driving me crazy. No, waiting is not always easy.

You and I live in a period where we know that God sent his son Jesus to the earth to preach his message of love and redemption. We live in a time when the Holy Spirit has come at the first Pentecost and continues to fill the earth with the Divine Presence. We are not waiting for God to come to us. He has. Still, we are in an in between time. We pray at Mass: *Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again*. Over and over again, Jesus told us the kingdom of God is in your midst. We see the kingdom of God wherever there is love and compassion being made present in the world. So, in a marriage where each partner seeks to die to self to love the other, the kingdom of God is present. As parents make sacrifices to raise their children, and those same children assist their parents as they age, the kingdom of God is present. When the hungry are fed, when the sick are visited, when the dying are comforted, the kingdom of God is present. When we seek to forgive those who hurt us, resist malicious gossip, protect human life, turn away from prejudice, we are working to build up the kingdom of God. When we seek peace in our families, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our parish, we are working with the Holy Spirit to make God present on earth.

We also read in the Scripture *that there will come a time when every tear shall be wiped away and we shall see God face to face*. We know there are rivers of tears in our world. We need only look the recent act of terrorism in Manchester and Egypt and see the

power of evil, resisting the grace of God. We see the homeless on our streets, divisions in our families, and great political unrest in our country, and wars rage throughout the world. The kingdom of God has not come to completion. The term I learned in the seminary makes great sense to me: *we live in a time of already and the not yet*. God has come and saved us, but his work is not yet finished.

That leaves you and me with two missions. One is to trust in the Lord and wait patiently that ultimately all will be well and there will come a time when evil ceases to be. We turn to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and prayer to support us in this anxious periods and disturbing times of waiting. The second mission is to do what we can do to work with the Holy Spirit to make our world, in whatever corner we live and act, a more loving and compassionate reality. On the back wall of the vestibule of our Church is a framed prayer written by St. Teresa of Avila about our mission to work for the kingdom of God. We call called to make God present on earth.

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.