

Lenten Devotional Reflection
18 March 2020 (Lent Day 19)

Scripture: Hebrews 6:13-20 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹³ When God made a promise to Abraham, because he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and multiply you.” ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. ¹⁶ Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. ¹⁷ In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, ¹⁸ so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Message

In Hebrews 4:1, we can see that the promise God made to his believers is “rest”. “Rest” here refers to a day of rest on the seventh day when God created the world. Believers observe the Sabbath in order to worship God and remember God’s love to mankind. Therefore, the true meaning of “rest” is to be “in the presence of God”.

God swore by himself when he made a promise to Abraham that he would make Abraham offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven (Genesis 2:16-17), because there was no one greater than God himself. (Traditionally, men swore by someone greater than themselves.) This is to prove that God is faithful.

Brothers and sisters, as of today, this faithful promise is still a steadfast hope to us. It is the hope that brings us directly to the sanctuary of the temple to connect with God. (That is why there is no veil to separate the congregation and the Holy Table in a Christian church.)

Reflection

1. Try to recall a moment when you felt closest to God.
2. What did God promise to you? How can this promise help you today?

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