

IN NOMINE JESU

RESTING IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Our sermon for this day the Church in this place has chosen to remember the Faith that God gave to His servant Ed Garverick, is drawn from the readings God guided June, Kris, and Kirk to choose for this day. Hear again the Word of the Lord:

*"In My Father's house remain many dwelling places.  
For if (it were) not (so), (would) I have told all of you,  
'I (am) going to prepare place for all of you?'"<sup>1</sup>*

**Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

June, Kirk, Kris, family and friends of Ed Garverick, as the Church mourns with you, she also rejoices with you. For, while we all have experienced an earthly loss, your husband, father, and friend, has received even more fully the promises of God's Word, gifts for which he has waited over eight decades to receive. He has his room in our Father's House, that which Jesus prepared for him almost 2,000 years ago, according to our calendars. Ed's waiting for his full place in his heavenly Father's house was, at times, not easy. Health complications can serve to turn one's thoughts away from God's gifts. Yet, even to the day in which your husband and father fell asleep in the Lord, even through the pain, Ed wanted to hear, and was attentive to His Father's Word. As God kept Ed in His Word, in His Promises, Ed was sustained in Christ's Faith. You see, Mr. Garverick's Heavenly Father is faithful, and He through the means He provided kept Ed in the Faith from life into life. That is why the Father's Word, spoken through the Son, can be of such comfort to us who mourn this day:

*"Let not the heart of all of you continue to be troubled:  
continue to believe in God,  
continue to believe also in Me."<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:2.

<sup>2</sup> John 14:1.

At the beginning of that passage, Jesus does not tell His followers to not mourn, grieve, or sorrow. Those are real human emotions at a human loss. Rather, Jesus encourages those who are to witness His death, and by extension later, the death of those whom He has named as His saints, to not let their collective hear be “troubled.” That is to say, those who cling to Christ’s words, the Father’s Promise, are free in the Faith to not be thrown into confusion. The image of the word we translate, “troubled,” is that which might be experienced by those who are crewing a small fishing boat on a storm tossed sea or lake. Today, through the words of Jesus, you are being encouraged to not let your heart be intimidated by this sudden death. To reinforce that in you, another man of the Faith wrote:

*For it is necessary for Him to rule until He might have placed all the enemies under His feet. (The) last enemy (which) continues to be rendered ineffective (is) death.<sup>3</sup>*

As death had no lasting power over Christ, it has no lasting power over Ed Garverick, or any who fall asleep in Christ’s Faith. Death continues to be rendered ineffective as God’s Word is declared, and sinners are washed, through the Water and Word, from all their sins. In Holy Baptism, Saint Ed died with Christ and rose to new life in Him. That washing of regeneration and renewal brought salvation, and the fullness of the Faith, that which Ed learned to use throughout the many decades of his mortal life.

It is continuing in the Faith in the Father’s promises, fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, that brings one into, and sustains one in the Faith. Jesus calls the faithful to continued belief. In today’s text all the faithful of the New Testament era are represented by the first hearers of this text. They were about to suffer through the Faith’s greatest challenge – beholding the guiltless death of their Lord. Jesus knew the very real human pain and suffering which loved ones face when the death of their beloved comes upon them. Therefore, to comfort them, to console you, Jesus says:

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<sup>3</sup> I Corinthians 15:25-26.

*“In My Father’s house remain many dwelling places.  
For if (it were) not, (would) I have said to all of you,  
‘I (am) going to prepare place for all of you?’”<sup>4</sup>*

Those of us who have been blessed at one time or another to live as adults in a family compound, understand perhaps better than others, the reality of which Jesus promises. In the household which God keeps together, there are rooms for all the members. When one is used to living with close and extended family nearby, it can be traumatic to leave the safety of the home.

At this time, your home is short one valued member. But, he has not been lost, nor willfully separated himself from the house. Rather, he has been taken to His Father’s House, and there dwells in the peace of the Lord, until such time as it pleases God to take you into His eternal home. How can you be so certain that this is true for your husband and father, and will be someday, for you?

First, over the centuries, even the ages before God sent His Son into our flesh, the Lord’s promise was given. He, through His prophets, foretold a time in human history when God’s Word would draw the faithful to the eternal Promised Land. For those who are faithful have their names recorded in the Father’s “Scroll of Remembrance,” from which He says,

*“They shall be for Me,” says YHWH Sabaoth, “on (the) Day which I am making(them), valued property. And I shall spare them, (as a) man (spares) his son (who is) serving him.”<sup>5</sup>*

Saint Edward Roy Garverick had his name enrolled in the Lord’s “Book of Remembrance” on the day of his baptism. It has stood there, been kept written in the Blood of Jesus, as Ed continued to receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation throughout eight decades. God, for the sake of His Son, Jesus, declares all the

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<sup>4</sup> John 14:2.

<sup>5</sup> Malachi 3:17.

baptized and believing faithful, His “valued property,” or, as some translations render that phrase, His “treasured possession.”

On this Father’s Day, we have a genuine remembrance of our heavenly Father’s love before us. We have the Promise that, on the Last Day, the Father will send the Son visibly back to this earth, with all His angel armies. Hear the Promise that has come more closely to Ed, and will come for you who, like him, trust in the Word of the Lord, rely on the Father’s promises, and fall asleep in the Lord:

*Now Christ has been raised from (the) dead, (the) First-fruits of the ones having fallen asleep, for since through man (came) death, also through Man (comes the) resurrection of (the) dead.<sup>6</sup>*

Throughout his many years, Ed learned to rely on God’s promises. A man of the Faith, especially in his later years as his mobility decreased and he became more homebound, Ed kept his defenses near. When the Church came to his home, Ed would be sitting in his chair, with hymnal, Bible, devotionals, sidearm, hunting and firearm magazines at hand. He was prepared with the appropriate defenses for this life, and for the life he now enjoys in our Father’s House. All were kept uncased – unholstered – ready for use at a moment’s notice. All were well-worn but maintained. All were treasured and used for their intended purposes.

The earthly defenses are no longer needed by our brother who has fallen asleep in the Lord. The heavenly defenses kept him in the One True Faith to his mortal end. Now, for Ed Garverick, Jesus’s words have become more fully true than for us who await our last hour:

*And if I have gone, also I have prepared (a) place for all of you, I continue to come again and will take all of you to Myself, that where I AM all of you may continue to be also. And where I go you all know the way.”<sup>7</sup>*

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<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:20-21.

<sup>7</sup> John 14:3-4.

Jesus grants those words to you that you might know that Ed has gone where he desired to be in the Faith. Where Christ is, our brother in the Faith now remains. Ed, through the means God provided, truly knew the Way to the Father's House. In case you have forgotten, Jesus again tells us the way that anyone may go where He is, even if the faithful may echo Thomas' question in our time of loss:

*Thomas says to Him, "Lord we (do) not know where you go, how (do) we have power to know the way?"*

*Jesus says to him, "I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." <sup>8</sup>*

Jesus is the only Path to the Father's eternal House. In Christ alone can anyone *discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one serving Elohim and one who is not His servant.*<sup>9</sup> Today, because of his continued confession of Christ-crucified for the forgiveness of all his sins, even unto his last conscious hour, Saint Edward Roy Garverick's mortal remains are covered by a white pall. That symbolizes the white robes he was given in God's sight through Holy Baptism, and the white robes of the saints which Christ died to give him. Today, we see only that which remains. On the Last Day, when all things will finally be placed under Christ's feet, these ashes will be raised, Ed will be given a new, perfect, glorified body, and with all of us who confess Christ-crucified for the forgiveness of all our sins, will live and reign with Christ forever.

**The peace which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus**

Trinity II

Funeral Service: Edward Roy Garverick

Malachi 3:16-18; I Corinthians 15:20-28; John 14:1-6

June 17, 2012

*Paster Michael A. Morehouse*

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

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<sup>8</sup> John 14:4-6.

<sup>9</sup> Malachi 3:18.