

Note: Rough Transcription

Alleluia, alleluia

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord;  
love one another as I have loved you.

Allelulia, alleluia, alleluia

The Lord be with you

And with your spirit

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Peter came up and said to Jesus,  
“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him,  
As many as seven times?”  
Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times but seventy times  
seven.

Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king  
who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the reckoning,  
one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents  
and as he could not pay  
his lord ordered him to be sold,  
along with his wife, his children, and all he had  
in payment to be made.

the servant fell on his knees, imploring him,  
‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’  
and out of pity for him the lord of that servant  
released him and forgave him the debt.

that same servant as he went out came upon one of his fellow servants

who owed him a hundred dinari  
Seizing him by the throat he said  
'Pay what you owe.'  
but his fellow servant fell down and besought him  
'have patience with me, and I will pay you.'  
he refused.  
went and put him in prison  
until he should pay the debt.  
when his fellow servants saw what had happened,  
they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all  
that had taken place.  
then His lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant!  
I forgave you all that debt because you besought me  
Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant,  
as I had mercy on you?'  
in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers  
until he should pay all his debt.  
So will my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you,  
if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

There is something visceral, attractive about revenge  
that dish best served cold  
but I suspect all the more so it is attractive because it is pursued,  
at least in our minds  
for the sake of justice,  
[     ] if you will,  
you hurt me, I hurt you  
Attractive at the very basic human level, it most certainly is,  
but it is also profitable  
for many movies of our time, books, plays

make millions of dollars by exploiting the theme  
think of a few that came to my mind  
I got these examples from the list that I quickly pulled up on the internet  
called the top 50 revenge clips of all time  
The fact that's so readily available should disturb you  
and that makes my point  
Russell Crowe even as he dies, makes sure to take emperor comadus with  
him in the classic Gladiator  
the filmmaker makes sure that we understand that Crowe's character,  
Maximus, is ushered off to heaven  
and comadus is left in the dirt of the coliseum  
Clint Eastwood, who could write a text on revenge with this,  
goes on a killing spree to the delight of audiences in Unforgiven  
the film which won the Academy award for best picture  
and that classic, ancient [ ]  
where family honor, if not the lives of murdered loved ones  
is restored in the great vigilante tale death wish  
there must be 20 death wishes now  
and many other movies that spun out from that  
there are hundreds more  
and yet all these great acts of violence, pools of blood,  
are based on a severely flawed premise, I mean like,  
really flawed,  
namely, that justice can be achieved through revenge.  
Not so.  
Not close to being true.  
One has come in this culture  
and I suspect in just about all human cultures  
to believe in and even to celebrate the power of vengeance  
by quickly calling it of course justice  
and then viewing it with divine sanction  
yet Jesus has something different to say,  
not just in our gospel account,  
but in his life,

almost no one gets this  
in a practical manner of how they live  
and yet if he knows anything,  
if we really believe that he is the son of God,  
and his works mean anything to us who bears his name,  
then forgiveness is far more powerful than revenge.  
far more powerful than revenge.  
visceralness is, the word implies, reaches to the gut, forgiveness to the heart  
it is forgiveness which manifests God's love  
not actions of divine wrath  
carried out to the stirring sounds of the mad choir singing the [ ]  
which used to be sung in many funerals  
I prefer [ ]  
but God's wrath is all tied now up here on the cross  
it's a metaphorical sense  
whereas it is ok to speak of God's wrath  
but don't forget where it goes  
what for a Christian  
God's vengeance and justice mean  
for God's justice does not take the form of a submachine gun  
or grenades tossed hither and yon  
people blown to bits, left and right  
because one person in my family died unjustly  
I can now take out thousands  
No, no.  
Rather, God's justice takes the form of the cross  
on which in Christ he died  
for us and for our sins  
If we wish to wreak revenge  
on others for the injustices they do us  
then we must be willing to take God's wrath face on  
because he certainly has the case to make against everyone here,  
including myself.  
if God and his justice were all about revenge

only hell could exist, there would be no heaven  
the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist  
is the instantiation of this cruciform shaped of divine justice  
it is striking that in receiving him  
that we are receiving the body and blood  
of the crucified Lord  
God dying for us that we may be raised up through him  
and yet its efficacious reception  
depends upon our own ability to forgive  
for if we can't forgive then we can't receive the eucharist's effect.  
consider that right before we receive Communion  
we pray the petition, forgive us our trespasses,  
of course we pray the [     ]  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
if we can't do that at least start and try to do that  
we need to receive communion  
and we all agree with that  
because we pray right before we receive communion.  
only when we forgive  
are we in turn forgiven  
the movement of the divine economy which then  
allows our our forgiveness  
to deepen toward us  
if we resolutely carry a chip of resentment on our shoulders at that Mass  
pray to God that he helps remove it.  
and perhaps then he will  
for only in this way can the cycle of revenge and violence broken  
for such a cycle is deeply embedded in human life.