

Feast of St. John, 12/ 27/ 24

1. Most of the disciples, died a martyrs death. John lived to die a natural death though he had expressed willingness. Martyr by intention.
2. Reading John's gospel, 1 theme he focuses upon is eternal life.
 1. John 3:16. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 2. Beg of 1 John: THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
 3. Fair to categorize Him as the mystic of the Evangelists.
3. John, as he ages, as he "tarries", he has a lifetime to look back upon. Physical comforts / luxuries become meaningless as he looks into eternity beholding God.

4. Pictures God for us as light inapproachable, but for the image of God, given us in Christ.
5. Desires us to desire union with God, union with the eternal divine Creator for this is the complete expression of human purpose and meaning.
6. Also He points us to the way we must take in order to experience this union. Of course, He who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, is Jesus Christ.
7. If we want eternal life, everlasting life, union with the divine, complete joy and the fullness of love, we must give ourselves to Jesus.
8. Finally, this life isn't a future goal. For us who follow Jesus, we are to live in that divine union now. Eternal life is for us now, and thus we should shun anything that would distract us from that life.
9. This is why we cannot honestly say that we love Our Divine Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 1. if we ignore Him
 2. if He is not an integral part of our daily activity
 3. if we sin

10. John challenges us especially to live consistently with our profession of faith, to live genuinely as true followers of Christ, to comprehend the beauty of God and to pursue that beauty, that glory, and that light, as the only worth goal of our existence.

11. We give thanks this night for the Apostle and Evangelist, St. John. We give thanks that God preserved his life so that we would understand the our lives in this world as a prelude to the eternal life in God in the next.

12. Let Us Pray

13. MERCIFUL Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it, being illumined by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John, may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Processional #462, Of the Father's Love Begotten
Com. #294, For the Bread Which Thou Hast Broken
Closing #134 from 1940 (come pure hearts)