



Father Timothy Horner
Memorial Mass for Confrater John Wight
November 28, 2009

1st Rdg. The souls of the just are in the hands of God. They are in peace. What a relief that must be for John after the sufferings of his last years. Their hope is full of immortality. So is ours. As gold in the furnace God proved them and took them to himself. The whole passage is one of great hope as we think about John, and indeed as we think about ourselves. The trick is to be just.

2nd Rdg. Favorite verses, full of comfort and joy both about John and about ourselves. We are God's children now. We do not yet know what we shall be, but we do know that we shall see God as he is in all his power and glory and loveliness, and we shall become like him. God is love, and so we shall presumably be irresistibly possessed by love of him. I shall come back to that idea.

Gospel. This is from Jesus' Priestly Prayer at the end of the Last Supper, as St. John records it, spoken within perhaps 20 hours of his death. Jesus is speaking to his Father about those the Father gave him, meaning primarily the Twelve, but applying surely to all of us as well. He is stating what he wants for them and for us: that where he, Jesus, is, they and we may also be. That is his will for us,



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



and it will be so, unless we frustrate it. Jesus taught them and made God's name, that is his nature, known to them as he has taught us and made it known to us, so that the love with which God loved Jesus might be in them and Jesus in them, and consequently that God's love may be in us and Jesus in us. Are not these amazing words?

Amazing but true, and I suppose, the more amazing, the more true. Certainly words to meditate on.

When people die, the church tells us to pray for them and think about them; and also to pray for and think about ourselves. Let us start with John.