

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

- Today's 1<sup>st</sup> reading really helps understand the Gospel home
- To really understand Zechariah let me give you some background
  - Zechariah is from a priestly family, just returned from Babylonian exile
  - They return to Jerusalem and start rebuilding
  - All the neighbors who had been there during the exile now line up against them
  - Surrounded on every side – **Just like Israel today** *In the midst of that* →
  - Zechariah prophecies “Rejoice” “King of Peace will come, meek, humble, riding a colt” **and God defends them.**
  - How does Jesus enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
    - Meek, and humble, riding on a colt – the foal of an ass.
    - The horse was an instrument of war – Zechariah prophecies a savior, meek and humble
    - Jesus comes meek and humble riding on the colt
    - Jesus says, “all you who are burdened come to me and find rest”
      - In the midst of OUR battles, OUR struggles, OUR trials
      - The same savior predicted by Zechariah brings peace
    - Jerusalem is in the midst of storm, with trouble all around “Peace”
      - Do you know what Jerusalem means?
      - “Jerusalem” = House of Peace
- Springfield Exhibition Horse Pull
  - Two Horses, sometimes Oxen – yoked together. Pulled concrete slabs on a sled.
  - Jesus says – yoke yourself to me.
  - Two horses together can pull HUGE loads
  - Yoked to Jesus, we too can overcome insurmountable problems.
  - Trials, battles, struggles, pains, SIN – are all very real
  - But we are an Easter people – and we are not alone
- When we yoke ourselves to Jesus, the problems don't magically disappear
- But yoked to Jesus, with Jesus, we can confront the wars within ourselves.
  - Addictions, obsessions, self-hatred, all those things that burden us
- This weekend is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- We celebrate our independence, our freedom.
- When George Washington came riding onto the scene he didn't bring peace
- George Washington confronted the problem, and went to war for freedom
- Ultimately, our freedom results from our declaring independence from everything false and treacherous – *declaring war on sin.*
- We find rest for our souls in making our personal Declaration of Dependence on Jesus – the only source of true peace.