

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Ordinary Time. 01/19/2022

In the first reading today, we hear one of the most famous stories of the Bible: David and Goliath. It has become part of our culture, and it is applied in many contexts. It represents an uneven battle, where one of contender is much weaker than the other. And it is the smaller and weaker contender who defeats the stronger opponent, against all expectation, and causing surprise. The image is used in political campaigns, in sporting event, in commercial and industry settings. It is the story of the underdog who prevails against all odds. It is inspiring, suggesting that the outcome of competitions is not fixed, despite appearances, and the everyone has some chance of winning.

But the story of David and Goliath is not about blind luck, or about human achievement. It is not the David's skill, cleverness, or determination that won the battle. It was God who steered the combat, who delivered Goliath into the hands of David. It took courage for David to come to this battle, facing this giant who not only boasts of great physical strength, but is also well armed for combat, with a strong armor and powerful weapons. We could say Goliath had the latest in technology in his favor. David is a young shepherd whose experience comes from defending his flock from wild animals. David's courage is rooted not on his own strength and personal resources, but in his trust in God who has saved him from peril countless times. It is God who will bring victory, through weak and humble

means, so that all may know that there is a God, and it is he who directs the course of history.

The hand of God is underneath human actions and struggles, and he works in the world through a collaboration with his people, a mysterious partnership with our weaknesses and limitations. We bring the best we know how to do, our best diligence and effort, and our trust in God. And he brings life to the task, and fruits.

A thousand years after the battle with Goliath, it is the Son of David, Jesus, who comes to fulfill the promises made to Israel and to bring salvation and deliverance from our enemies. Through his sacrifice he defeats death and the hold of sin. In his wounds we have been healed.

In our lives, we are also likely to face battles. Some will be against external forces, and some will be against our own sinful tendencies. Let us follow the example of David and take courage, doing all we can, placing our trust in God who defeats evil. He has already won our salvation. And let us remain united with Christ, nourished by his body in Holy Communion. He is our king forever.