



Reflection from Ben Babaran

The first reading from Isaiah presents a prophecy depicting a grand transformation extended to all nations. That prophecy has been fulfilled in St. James where 24 flags of nations are displayed representing all those who came to St. James and stayed to proclaim God's glory in their respective languages.

Then we find in the Gospel someone wanting to know what's going to happen in the future. And I can only imagine Jesus nodding his head in response saying, "It doesn't matter what happens in the future. What matters is how we live in the present in the here and now." Why do we worry about who goes to heaven and who goes to hell when people all around us need love and care and concern?

Jesus subsequently answered saying, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate." It sounds like just a few people are going to be saved. Yet, on Sunday, we will enter the narrow doors of St. James Church. We will go in the church to be with each other, participating in the ritual of God's love and care. It means we must focus our heart and attention. Enter through the narrow gate into a lovely church. We break bread together, sing songs and become the people of God.

While individually we might not be strong enough to enter through the narrow door, collectively as St. James, we can wholeheartedly respond to Christ and to the demands of His discipleship.

*Blessings,
Ben*