

The Faith of Our Fathers

Today's Gospel means this: No Christian should grow disheartened or despondent because he cannot bring it about that there are only saints in his church. For the devil does not stand aloof. He throws his seeds. Therefore, those we think godly and righteous do us the greatest harm and cause us the greatest difficulties. And this is the only comfort: that Christ Himself warns us that it will happen thus. Angels become devils. One of the Apostles betrayed Christ. Christians became heretics. Out of the people of God came the wicked men who nailed Christ to the cross. So it happens still. Therefore, we must not be alarmed and must not faint when we see tares shoot up amongst the wheat. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

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For the *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

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