

Prayer Resource

Week Beginning: 18 May 2020

Theme: Spirit of Reverence and Truth

Reflection: "I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate." (John 14:16)

Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 65; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

So many messages seem to come our way during these days: 'Stay safe' has swiftly become 'Stay alert' and others urge us to 'Stay strong' and 'Stay courageous.' Whatever the mantra is or becomes, we 'The Easter People', are very blessed to know that Our Eternal God of Love stays faithful and will never abandon us even in the midst of great sorrow.

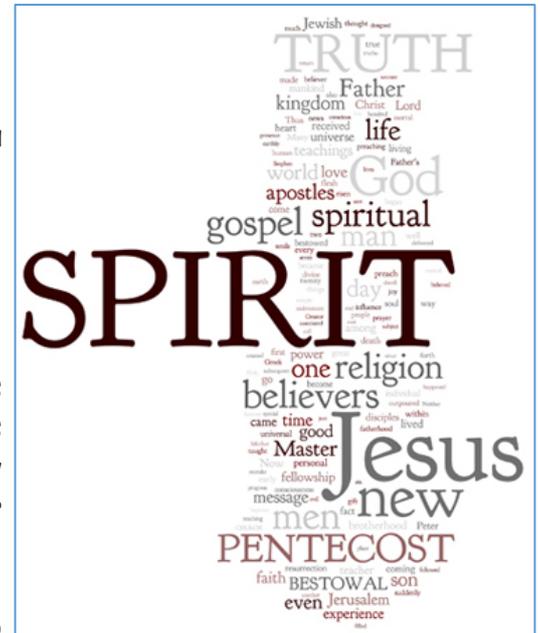
Shakespeare wrote that "parting is a sweet, sweet sorrow." To say goodbye to a loved one can be a heart-breaking experience. Parents saying goodbye to a child, no matter how old, leaving for another part of the country or possibly emigrating. The sense of loss is all the more magnified by distance and time. For many the loss of a loved one has the finality and permanence of death that brings pain, sorrow and a grief that can last for months and for many for years and for some for a lifetime.

Saint John shares with us the news that Jesus —as He previously did with his disciples— is leaving us. He is going back to the Father to be glorified. This seemed to sadden his disciples who were always looking at him with that physical, human gaze, that only believes in, accepts and clings to whatever can be seen and touched. This feeling of his followers, that can also be appreciated in many of today's Christians, makes our Lord to avow that "I will not leave you orphans", for He will ask the Father to send us "another Paraclete" (Helper, Intercessor: 14:16), "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17); furthermore, even if the world will not 'see' him, "you will see me because I live and you will also live." Thus, trusting and understanding these words of Jesus will, in the true disciple, kindle that kind of love, which will be clearly shown through "keeping his commandments" and "observing them." Even more so: whoever lives this way, will also be loved by the Father, and He —the Son— shall love his steadfast disciple and will show himself clearly to him.

Pope Francis has a special devotion to Our Lady, the Mother of Jesus whom we honour in the month of May, and in particular her ability to untie 'knots.' The greatest example we have of steadfast discipleship she offers us as she accepted God's promise for her with a trusting 'Let it be.' And her first mission was not one of self-interest but to go out and seek another and nurture her cousin Elizabeth, and Mary felt so blessed that she proclaimed 'Holy is His Name.'

How many words of nurturing, trust and promise reach out this week to us! In the midst of our daily worries —when our Heart may be overwhelmed by the shadows of a pandemic and possibly personal stress or doubt, or shadows of despair and of weariness for all those things that seem to have no solution at all or that have reached a blind alley:- Jesus urges us on to feel that He is always present and to realize that He is alive and loves us, while, at the same time, He guarantees to whoever firmly decides to live and abide by His commandments, to show himself in the plenitude of the new and risen life.

Today, (that is every day) He appears alive and is present before us, in the teachings of the Scriptures that we listen to, and in the 'Communal Eucharist' that we still receive. And lest we forget he is present in each one of us; in every orphaned child, in every disabled victim, in every prisoner, in every homeless alcoholic, is present in the least, including ourselves! So may we 'stay alert and



faithful' making our response to be that of a new life that surrenders to the uplifting reality of God's commandments, in particular the Golden Commandment of loving Our Maker and the sister and brother in our very midst with reverence, courtesy, respect and a clear conscience (1 Peter 3:15-16).

A for Song Sharing Magnificat - 'Holy is His Name' by John Michael Talbot

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
And my spirit exalts in God my Saviour
For He has looked with mercy on my loneliness
And my name will be forever exalted
For the mighty God has done great things for me
And His mercy will reach from age to age
And holy, holy, holy is His name
He has mercy in every generation
He has revealed His power and His glory
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance
And has lifted up the meek and the lonely
He has come to help His servant Israel
He remembered His promise to our fathers
And holy, (holy) holy, holy is His name
Holy, holy, holy is His name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbOA4ucrPkI>

Prayers

Our response to our prayers this week is: Thank you, for always being with us.
(Amen)

Monday: We pray for the world-wide church, our local diocese and our parish.
May the church at every level be a vibrant community of the Holy Spirit R/.

Tuesday: We pray for all who looked forward to being baptised at the Easter Vigil this year. May they await their full initiation with patience, faith and hope R/.

Wednesday: We pray for leaders guiding their nations through the coronavirus crisis. May they chart the way forward with wisdom, justice and courage R/.

Thursday: We renew our thanks for the dedicated workers and volunteers maintaining essential community services. May they enjoy our full and lasting appreciation R/.

Friday: We pray for the needy and vulnerable in our midst unable to claim government support. May welfare agencies and the whole community come to their aid R/.