

5th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

Welcome!

United in Spirit and with great joy as we continue our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, we at Jesus the Divine Word Church encourage our parishioners to join one another in prayer from our homes, reading and reflecting on the Word of God for this 5th Sunday of Easter and through the live streaming of our Mass at 10 AM (replayed at 12 Noon).

Living the Word

Theme: *Keep Calm and Trust Jesus*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me”

Opening Prayer

In your house, O God,
there are many dwelling places,
and your Son has gone to prepare a place for us
that where he is, there we may also be.

Do not let our hearts be troubled
but fill our lives in deeds of service.
Help us follow Jesus with joy,
he who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
Then we shall come to you through the One
who is our Passover and our peace,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from Prayer for Sundays and Seasons, Year A Fifth Sunday of Easter)

Gospel

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Reflection

Today's gospel contains some of the last words Jesus speaks to his disciples before his death. Within 24 hours, he will be dead.

He is concerned about the problems his departure will cause for the disciples left behind. He tells them not to be troubled, and tries to reassure them.

Do not let your hearts be troubled when faced with despair, suffering or loss; when the world as you've known it has changed. Do not allow the changes to break you. This seems easier said than done, especially when confronted by the deep pain and anguish the world can bring.

Jesus could have spoken in abstract concepts, saying that in the Kingdom they would experience eschatological bliss. He chose instead to speak in very personal terms.

Jesus tells us he is the way, the truth and the life. He is the way of hope, healing and light in the darkest night.

When we are troubled, our risen Lord reassures us in the same way. There is room in his heart for all of us. He is the way to eternal joy.

(Adapted from Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, 2019-2020, Fifth Sunday of Easter and The Little White Book, Diocese of Saginaw, MI, Monday, Fifth Week of Easter 2020)

Challenge: Take the peace you receive from Christ to help calm the hearts of others.

Let Us Pray

For the Church: May our lives be marked by prayer and service to those in need ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who exercise leadership in the world: May they act with wisdom and in the best interests of those they serve as they bring their people safely through this pandemic ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all doctors, nurses, health workers, volunteers and chaplains whose own lives are at risk to save others: May God protect them and bless their efforts, granting them strength, generosity and continued health ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who serve the poor, widows, orphans and the forgotten of society: May God renew their hearts and strengthen their spirits to continue to reach out to those in need... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For greater discipleship: May God guide us in living sacrificial lives and continuing the ministry of Christ in our families, our communities and our society ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick: May God lift their burdens and restore them to health; we pray for Art Campbell, Shirley Clement, Jimmie Gorski, Nancy Harvey, David Kemeza, Father Michal Sajnog, Julia Small, Dave Thacker, Florence Van Haute and for all suffering from COVID-19 ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our Mothers who are living and whose names have been enrolled in our Mother's Day Novena: May God watch over them, bless them with every good gift, and fill their lives with peace... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our Mothers who are deceased, and whose names have been enrolled in our Mother's Day Novena: May the Risen Lord Jesus grant them rest from their labors and welcome them into the Kingdom of God our Father... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the deceased, especially Frank Clarke: May they be happy forever in our Father's house and in that place Jesus has prepared for them ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

Closing Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and
you will renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has instructed the hearts of your faithful by
the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the same
Holy Spirit we may have right judgment in all things
and evermore rejoice in his consolations.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.