



While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. (First Reading)

PRAYING TOWARDS SUNDAY - 6TH OF EASTER

THE GOSPEL. John 15:9-17

Love one another as I love you.

They were his close friends.
He had chosen them.
But sad they were.
And sad he was
Risen,
the Lord must
leave the earth.
Yet he loved them so much
he could not lose them from his life.
He would place his Spirit deep within them.

And within the rest of us.

Soul/Spirit
of Jesus,
constant companion,
teacher of all good, remind us
what Jesus said and did, and who he is;
how he loves us and makes his home within us.
And the only thing he asks is that we love one another.

THE FIRST READING. Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

The Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word.

The Spirit,
the one that fell upon those
who listened as Peter
preached,

that same Spirit sings
In the streams
of summer;

cries out
within the hungry, the immigrant,
the discriminated,
the trafficked,
the children
left alone;

calls out to
the lost and lonely,

whispers
inside
our souls.

Lord, unplug our ears
so that we can
hear.

THE SECOND READING. 1 John 4:7-10

*In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.*

God
spoke a
Word to us,

healing
the afflicted ones,
feeding the hungry ones,

laying down his life to show love's extent.

In fact, the Word was Love.

His name is
Jesus.

Jesus, let us love one another
in you. (*Anne Osdiack*)

REFLECTION:

God is love and we show we know God when we act with generous love

**Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion
these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.**

God's love is both profoundly faithful and utterly overwhelming. This is what this Sunday's readings reveal, with the First Reading showing a love that is also universal. The early disciples, at first limited in their mission, are now convinced that God's love embraces everyone.

It's a theme taken up in the Second Reading where St John says that God is love and acts lovingly when he sends his Son to reveal what true love means. God's outreach to the whole human race is what today's Psalm sings of so joyfully.

In the Gospel, St John goes on to speak ever more deeply of God's love for us. He recalls Jesus's teaching about his loving relationship with his Father and of his desire to make this relationship both known and available. All are invited into that same intimate relationship!

Perhaps this week, I might ask for the grace to let that teaching sink into my heart and become a reality in the way I live and by the fruit I bear.

'Help me, Lord, to respond to your friendship by being a true friend

to you through my loving relationships with my sisters, brothers and all of creation. Amen.' (St. Bueno's Outreach Ministry)