

6th Sunday of Easter A



And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. ... (Gospel)

Bernini, Holy Spirit
St. Peter's Basilica 1647-1653

Jesus,

you comfort
and transform us
through your
Spirit.

Please breathe that Spirit again.

Our whole planet needs it now.

Instruct our scientists how to find cures for a sick climate as well as for viruses.

Inspire us to learn new ways to end violence and feed starving children.

Help us listen for the cry of the poor, the earth, and the cries of all who suffer.

When we love you in our neighbor,
let us find you in ourselves.

THE FIRST READING Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

*For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice,
came out of many possessed people.*

Phillip brought your word to the possessed.
Unclean spirits went out of them;
great joy came to Samaria.

Lord, please, dispel from us
whatever is not love,
truth and goodness.

Let the Holy Spirit, enter at once, and
put signs of yourself within our lives
this very day.

THE SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:15-18

***For Christ also suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous.***

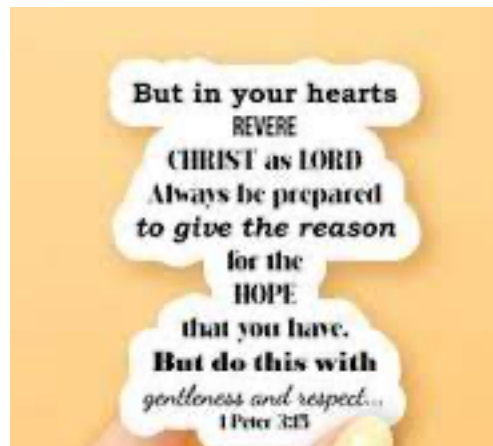
How hard it is to suffer.

You, Christ, suffer with us.

Let us swing wide the door
to let in your suffering, whenever it knocks.

Let the Holy Spirit draw us to know you better,
to love you more.

Let us come to life in the Spirit.



Reflection: (1) In this farewell speech Jesus is preparing his disciples how to face life without him. How will they survive imminently when he will be taken and crucified but even after he has risen in glory to his Father how will he be present to them? He does not want them to have any illusions. The world will hate them as it has hated him. They too will face persecution. So he concentrates on turning inwards. They will be a community apart. They must find their true identity by keeping Christ's commandments. And this means that they must love one another. There is no mention of loving enemies.

The church community which Jesus prepares for them will replace the old temple now destroyed. Christ now is the new temple, his Father's house, where they will experience the presence of God. As Jesus tells them "I am in the Father and you in me and I in you". The Christian community is where the Father and the Son will dwell and each member will experience the presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit. Christ will not leave them orphans for they will be children of God living in this new family which Christ creates on the cross as he gives his beloved disciple into the care of his Mother. (David Sanders OP - Adapted)



Christ taking leave of the Apostles
(Duccio 1260 – 1318)

REFLECIÓN (2). Throughout Easter the Church is recalling the adventures of the Church in the weeks after Jesus died and then rose again. We remember Philip who told Jesus,

"Just show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Of course he was seeing Jesus and therefore was looking at the Father, but he did not know it.

And we remember what Jesus said just before his passion and death? That he would send the Spirit of Truth into our hearts. And that we would not be left orphans.

Jesus seemed to say, first, that God the Abba was so much within Jesus that every time you see him it is the same thing as seeing God. Second, Jesus said, I am going to be so much within you that whenever people see you it will be the same thing as seeing me!

So Jesus said it again. You will not see me anymore. But that doesn't make me absent from you. I and Abba will be within you so that your very spirit will hold the Spirit of me and of the Father. All you need to do is to say "yes." (John Foley SJ - Adapted)

