

May 28, 2017 7th Sunday of Easter

We must follow Him as did his disciples!

Acts 1:12-14

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8

1Peter 4:13-16

John 17:1-11a

In the first reading Jesus ascends to heaven while the disciples gather together in the upper room in Mount Olives, near Jerusalem. They are of one accord in prayer, men and women, including Mary, mother of Jesus.

The Psalmist declares the Lord to be his light, his salvation, his life's refuge, and therefore has no need to fear the world's challenges. He asks the Lord to hear him, pity him, and answer him in his needs. He is single-minded as his heart speaks only of the Lord, his glance seeks the Lord, and he seeks to dwell in the Lord's house.



In the second reading Peter tells the faithful to rejoice when they have to suffer for the sake of the faith for then they share in Christ's sufferings. To be insulted for Jesus' teachings is to be blessed for God's spirit rests upon such believers. Never be ashamed, in fact be joyful, if you have to suffer for upholding Christian values.

In the Gospel Jesus prays and speaks to the Father. He has completed the mission given to him by the Father and in this way the Son glorifies Father since he has accomplished the works assigned by the Father. Jesus is concerned for those who followed him for they too belong to the Father, and now follow and accept the Son's teaching, which means they accept the ways of the Father.

The Father assigns the works,
The Son glorifies the Father by accomplishing them,
The Holy Spirit continually rests upon Him.

In the Gospel Jesus defines eternal life as life that knows the true God and the One he has sent. The Psalmist did not have a conception of eternal life and his belief that "he will see good things in the land of the living" could well be interpreted differently by us who believe in the resurrection. The Gospel takes a post-resurrection point of view which even the apostles did not fully understand at the time. But we have the Living Word which guides us to "the land of life" where Jesus now dwells.

He Will Teach You Everything!

"Jesus said to his first friends, the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, he it is who will teach you everything, and bring to your minds everything that I have said to you."

Indeed, he is the very spirit of love, the fount of charity, the living stream; it is he who creates new eyes for those who would see Jesus, by illuminating their minds and enkindling their hearts. (John of Ford, 13th century)

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