

May 13, 2018

7th Sunday of Easter

## God is LOVE!

Acts 1:15-17,20-26

Psalms 103:1-2,11-12,19-20

1John 4:11-16

John 17:11b-19

Peter speaks to a group of 120 disciples and indicates that the empty place left by Judas is to be filled. The Holy Spirit prophesied in the Psalms that "another may take his office." Mathias, who accompanied the disciples the whole time, was chosen by lot after a prayer time.

The Psalmist, with his whole heart and soul, blesses the Lord and his Holy Name. He remembers all the benefits that flow from the Lord. His prayer even appeals to the angels, mighty in strength, to join him in adoration.

John emphasizes that God loves us and so we in turn are to love one another and in this way God remains in us. God's love is brought to perfection in us. We are in him, and he is in us, and this we know because he has given us the Holy Spirit; we can testify in confidence that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. God is love and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

Jesus prays for the protection of his disciples as he prepares to leave this world. While in the world he protected and guarded them and only the son of destruction was lost according to the fulfillment of Scriptures. The Father sent the Son and now the Son sends his disciples as they are consecrated in truth by the Father.



The Father's love is perfect in us,  
And that is why he sent the Son.  
We know this from the Spirit we have received.

Jesus is clear on how unity can be obtained and maintained by indicating it must be rooted in love. The sense of the "world" as used by John connotes those who hate the Word, the Truth, and the acknowledgment of Jesus as savior. These are the ones who do not understand that only in truth can salvation be found; they will ridicule and even persecute believers. Jesus prays for the protection of the disciples, as he also prays for us, because he knows there are times everyone of us will face danger.

The many disciples that were gathered together looked to Jesus as their Leader and felt a strong spiritual bond with him. He asks the Father that they remain in the world as he leaves so that they may give witness to the truth that was shared with them. Jesus impressed them with his own faith in the Heavenly Father, his own sense of community, his own confidence in immortality. Now a campaign of testimony would be the great mission of the disciples and as witnesses they are able to testify to the many aspects of their personal experiences with him. This testimony was to have great effects; sometimes it was in words, sometimes in actions, but as the first Christian witnesses they were to transform the civilization of the world. Like Jesus they were to approach others not by simply preaching at them or handing down something to them from a sense of superiority, but simply share something of great value, eternal life in an unseen reality. The readiness to share humbly and truthfully the Gospel of Jesus is the real genius of Christianity. It shows us the Way to be in harmony with one another and with one voice glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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