

JOHN 17:11-19

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

‘Holy Father,

keep those you have given me true to your name,
so that they may be one like us.

While I was with them,

I kept those you had given me true to your name.

I have watched over them and not one is lost

except the one who chose to be lost,

and this was to fulfil the scriptures.

But now I am coming to you

and while still in the world I say these things

to share my joy with them to the full.

I passed your word on to them,

and the world hated them,

because they belong to the world

no more than I belong to the world.

I am not asking you to remove them from the world,

but to protect them from the evil one.

They do not belong to the world

any more than I belong to the world.

Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.

As you sent me into the world,

I have sent them into the world,

and for their sake I consecrate myself

so that they too may be consecrated in truth.’

COMMENTARY: When you offer yourself for the service of God, and when you become alert to the call of your baptism, it is important to remember the sentiments of Jesus expressed in the above prayer he makes to the Father. Notice how Jesus prays that we will be consecrated in truth and emphasises where our true home is.

Liturgy of The Word

May 5

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

ACTS 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

COMMENTARY: One of the earliest revelations for the infant Church was the realisation that it would not only be people of the Jewish faith who would be saved, but all peoples. Christ came to save all and all baptised in Christ would be equal. Later, Paul would emphasise that there can be no distinction between Jew and Greek, male and female.

1 JOHN 4:7-10

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

COMMENTARY: Pondering the command to love is perhaps the most important thing we can do if we are to grow in faith. In the above text St John points out the importance of understanding God's love for us. When this truth makes its way into our bones, the rest will flow naturally.