



WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle C

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"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you."

This passage from the Last Supper discourse, where Jesus speaks of his leaving and promises to send the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, helps us prepare for the coming feasts of Ascension and Pentecost. This discourse comes just before the death of Jesus. Then further in John's Gospel, the giving of the Spirit occurs on Easter Sunday evening: *"...he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" (John 20:21)*

The words of Jesus are aimed at preparing the disciples for his absence, at least in terms of the way they had known him. We are reminded that Jesus continues to be with us through the divine indwelling within us. Jesus then promises the gift of the Spirit, who will help the church understand everything that Jesus had said. Through the Holy Spirit, Church will never be without a link to Jesus, and everything he said and did. This advocacy involves overcoming the problem of the passage of time, forgetfulness. This is accomplished through the two-fold action of every Eucharistic Prayer: Anamnesis, the lifting of the Last Supper to the present moment, and Epiclesis, the breathing of life into that moment. As Jesus came in the Father's name and spoke the Father's words, so the Spirit comes in Jesus' name and his teachings.

It is the Holy Spirit who gives the peace that Jesus promises. It is a deep peace far beyond what the world can offer. The final sentences of today's passage insist that Jesus' leaving is not defeat, but rather full union with the Father.

These words echo an important message for us. We need to be reminded that the Trinity dwells within us, giving us the guidance and strength we need.

As you reflect on this Gospel, dwell on these important truths. Let the words of Jesus invite you to live in his love and to trust in the Spirit's guidance in whatever trials life brings. Be lifted up through his inspiring words, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you."* In a moment of quietude, celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of Easter Joy. Through the celebration of the Eucharist, etch in your memory and hold dear the blessings of the peace springing forth from this sacred fount of all holiness.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Those who love me will keep my word,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them
and make our home with them.
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
and the word that you hear is not mine,
but is from the Father who sent me."

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you."

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give it to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."*

"You heard me say to you,
'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'
If you loved me,
you would rejoice that I am going to the Father,
because the Father is greater than I.
And now I have told you this before it occurs,
so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The Gospel of the Lord