

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday May 15th for Pentecost Sunday

OPENING PRAYER: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful gathered in your name. Enkindle in us the fire of your divine love. Allow your dormant gifts within us to manifest themselves in our lives so that all will know your presence and activity in our lives. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 20: 19-23

19 On the evening of that first day of the week,ⁱ when the doors were locked, where the disciples^{*} were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.^{*} The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.^k

21^{*} [Jesus] said to them again,^l “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

22^{*} And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,^m “Receive the holy Spirit.

23^{*} ⁿ Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Notes

* [[20:19–29](#)] The appearances to the disciples, without or with Thomas (cf. [Jn 11:16](#); [14:5](#)), have rough parallels in the other gospels only for [Jn 20:19–23](#); cf. [Lk 24:36–39](#); [Mk 16:14–18](#).

* [\[20:19\]](#) The disciples: by implication from [Jn 20:24](#) this means ten of the Twelve, presumably in Jerusalem. Peace be with you: although this could be an ordinary greeting, John intends here to echo [Jn 14:27](#). The theme of rejoicing in [Jn 20:20](#) echoes [Jn 16:22](#).

* [\[20:20\]](#) Hands and...side: [Lk 24:39–40](#) mentions “hands and feet,” based on [Ps 22:17](#).

* [\[20:21\]](#) By means of this sending, the Eleven were made apostles, that is, “those sent” (cf. [Jn 17:18](#)), though John does not use the noun in reference to them (see note on [Jn 13:16](#)). A solemn mission or “sending” is also the subject of the post-resurrection appearances to the Eleven in [Mt 28:19](#); [Lk 24:47](#); [Mk 16:15](#).

* [\[20:22\]](#) This action recalls [Gn 2:7](#), where God breathed on the first man and gave him life; just as Adam’s life came from God, so now the disciples’ new spiritual life comes from Jesus. Cf. also the revivification of the dry bones in [Ez 37](#). This is the author’s version of Pentecost. Cf. also the note on [Jn 19:30](#).

* [\[20:23\]](#) The Council of Trent defined that this power to forgive sins is exercised in the sacrament of penance. See [Mt 16:19](#); [Mt 18:18](#).

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Who is the Holy Spirit to you? If you have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, how did it begin and develop?
2. What gift of the Holy Spirit do you most desire or need at this time in your life?
3. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit’s presence and activity in your life?
4. Name one thing today’s Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.

Commentary

“On the evening of that first day of the week...Jesus came.” This appearance happens on Easter Sunday evening, the evening of the Resurrection. Jesus comes to a group of frightened disciples (“the doors were locked for fear of the Jews”). The fact that Jesus can enter through locked doors shows that “resurrected life” is totally different, not confined by physical obstacles. Yet, by showing them “his hands and his side,” Jesus is saying that there is a connection and continuity between the crucified Christ and the resurrected Christ. Also, by showing them his pierced hands and side, Jesus is communicating the cost of glory. Jesus imparts three gifts: peace, joy and the spirit. The “peace” or shalom which Jesus brings replaces the feelings of guilt the disciples must have had for abandoning Jesus in his hour of greatest need. The gift of peace or shalom restores harmony to a broken or wounded relationship. Joy is what the disciples experience when they see Jesus. This joy at the presence of Jesus replaces the feelings of depression the disciples must have suffered during Jesus’ absence. Then Jesus imparts his spirit: “He breathed on them.” This gesture is seen as reminiscent of God breathing the breath of life into Adam (Gen 2:7). Pentecost is the beginning of a new creation. By his gesture of breathing, Jesus brings to birth his Church. Then Jesus commissions those gathered to go forth and forgive sins. “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained.” Originally, these words were probably seen as the Church’s prerogative to confer or withhold Baptism from those seeking entry into the Church. People who were judged as not truly repentant of their sins or not embracing the message of Jesus were refused Baptism which, among other things, cleansed the recipient of sin. Later, our Church saw in these words of Jesus, the foundation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom
Wednesday, May 15 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: May 15, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607