



AMDG
FIFTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER
YEAR A
14 MAY 2017



‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life’

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may,
under your protective care,
bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

The powerful theme running through today’s Liturgy is one of faith, hope and trust in God. During the coming week, in the good and not so good moments that make up my days, God’s Word is there to inspire, sustain and encourage me. How I have been feeling during the past week; what were the key moments? As I look back I may more easily be able to see God’s presence in them. Today’s Eastertide readings take me from the difficulties facing the early Church back to the time when Jesus spoke to his disciples of his imminent death. Enfolded in these readings is a glorious song of praise. In today’s world how different things would be if those in authority took their example from the disciples and committed themselves to prayer; seeking wisdom from the Holy Spirit in their decision making (First Reading). I am reminded that my hope is in our faithful God who loves justice and right and I offer him praise and thanksgiving (Psalm). In the Second Reading Peter speaks graphically about the difficulties encountered through lack of faith in God...leading directly to a section of Jesus’ farewell to his disciples. Jesus repeatedly emphasises the crucial need to believe in his word; the ‘oneness’ of him and his Father. He speaks of the extraordinary grace given to those who believe in him (Gospel)

FIRST READING: PETER 2: 4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and no one rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

This letter was written to encourage and give renewed hope to a small group of Christians in Asia Minor who were suffering abuse for their faith. It explains the meaning of their new life through Christ's resurrection and received in Christian baptism. It usually helps to enter prayer slowly: so I give myself time to become still before my loving God. I ask for the grace to ponder the deep message of this Eastertide passage; I may ask to be overcome with gratitude for the gift of faith in a world where so many are searching for meaning. Or I may find myself asking for a deeper trust as I struggle to believe in God's goodness given the problems I am faced with in my daily life. Perhaps I pray that the paschal example of Christ's life may truly be the cornerstone of my faith. How can I set myself close to Christ? In what ways is my faith in the person of Jesus precious? Do I realise I am through my baptism a 'chosen' person? I ponder whatever arises in my mind and heart. I end my prayer giving thanks to God who gives me 'light'.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14: 1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said; 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him, 'and you still do not know me?' 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Let us see the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself; it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Each one has their own way of praying this text. I may be drawn to use my imagination endeavouring to 'be there' at the Last Supper, hearing Jesus speaking directly to me. Or, I may prefer to simply hear the story as St John relates it to his readers, noting the various points that Jesus stresses to his disciples. In whatever way I approach my prayer today, I ask myself how I am feeling. Do I, like the disciples, come with a troubled heart? Thomas and Philip could not fully understand the mysteries Jesus was revealing to them. Do I also have questions, what would I like to say to Jesus? I look again at the depth of the text, where am I most drawn to ponder at this moment in my prayer, in my life? I speak to Jesus, remembering his words, 'Trust in God still, and trust in me.' When I am ready, I slowly end my prayer.

Here's a text if you've only got a minute...

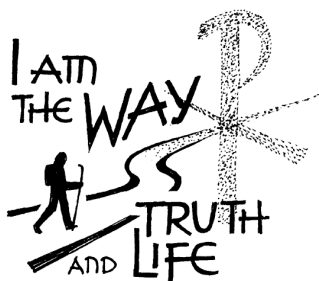
O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia. *Entrance antiphon*

The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. *Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 32*

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God. *Second Reading, Peter 2:4-9*

Trust in God still and trust in me. *Gospel, John 14:1-12*

Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself. *Gospel, John 14:1-12*



How does this image help me meditate on the events of Eastertide?

REFLECTIONS

What does the week hold for me and how do I feel God may be calling me?

And so, what do I want to ask of God for myself and for others?

Based on Prego by St Beuno's
Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham



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