

Fifth Sunday of Easter A2023

The Gospel of this Sunday starts with a very simple invitation of our Lord: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also might be.”

These are one of the most consoling and assuring words we find in the Gospel. They are full of hope, optimism and anticipation. They give us strength and courage to live in this world without worry and concerns, knowing well that whatever might be our social situation, as long as we believe in Jesus, our future is assured; we have a place in the house of his Father.

This is not a house built by human engineer or architect, but by God himself, the best of the engineers and the best of architects. This is a perfect house, where one is at home. Our human houses have nothing comparable to that house. Sometimes a strong wind or a storm can destroy the Schinkel of a beautiful home. Sometimes a leak due to the rain can cause damages to a well-built home. But for this one, no such a thing will happen.

We understand why this Gospel is often used for the funeral Mass to confess the truth that we leave a destructible house on earth in order to live in an indestructible house. This Gospel excites within us the longing for the house of the Lord. How wonderful we could spend the rest of our life in such a house where our host is God himself. Here, even a homeless has a home. What a consolation! How great this can be!

Jesus, the begotten Son of the Father is the cornerstone of this building. We, his disciples, are like living stones, a people that God claims as his own, and a consecrated nation. Christ, our cornerstone, keeps us together so that we offer to his Father spiritual sacrifices acceptable to him. These consist of a holy and irreproachable life, filled with deeds of love, peace and joy toward our fellows. Each one of us is called to dispose himself to be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The risen Lord Jesus, who is in the Father and the Father in him, is the architect of this house. Like an architect, our Lord has in his hand drafting tools among which is the triangle ruler. Each angle of his triangle has a name: way, truth and life. When Jesus draws the house in which he wants us to dwell with him, he drafts it in such way that the direction to it is clear, the certainty of having it is without doubt and the purpose for which we take possession of it is assured. Then, he can say: “I am the way, the truth and the life.” The imitation of Christ explains Jesus statement by saying, “Without the way, there is no going; without the truth, there is no knowing; and without the life, there is no living.”

Our Lord calls Himself the “Way” because he is the safest and surest direction to God. He came from God and he can lead us to his Heavenly Father. By remaining in communion with him we have access to the Father. If we accept to follow him, we will never get lost, but rather he will lead us to the purpose for which we have been created, that is, our eternal salvation.

To follow the Way of our Lord is to become a person whose whole being reflects the Truth and the Life that Jesus is. It is also to be a person who is totally identified with the vision and the values of Jesus.

Our Lord is the Truth because he is the only one who introduces us to the reality of God. Only he can say, "I am the truth." All other people can say I told you the truth, but only Jesus can say, "I am the truth." He is the truth because he is the personification of the truth and to know him is to know the truth. He teaches us that God is a loving, merciful, providing and forgiving Father. Our Lord is the Truth because he has borne testimony to the Truth in his passion, demonstrating through his Life and death how God is love. Our Lord is the Truth because he is the personification of the Word of God.

To seek the truth elsewhere than in him is to stumble, to fall and to sink in falsehood and lies. Then, we can understand what the psalm 86 says, "Teach me your Ways, O Lord, and I will walk in your Truth."

Our Lord is Life because he has Eternal Life in himself. He is the risen one who was dead and who now lives eternally. Living without our Lord is cutting our life of an important asset that makes it meaningful. One lives not only for what is visible, but for eternal values. To know him is truly to live and a life without him is not life at all.

Our Lord is the one who gives us his Life-giving Holy Spirit. Our Lord is life because he allows us to share in God's life through the Sacraments of the Church. He rose from the dead to give us eternal life and to make us fully alive. His Spirit animates every moment of our lives so that we are fully alive in God.

Our Lord is the way, the truth and the life because the Father is in him and he is in the Father. To see him is to see the Father; to listen to him is listening to the Father and to obey him is obeying the Father who sent him and whose power is at work in him. For that reason, no one can come to the Father except through him. Our Lord alone is the way to God. In him alone we see what God is like; and he alone can lead us into God's presence.

What will happen, then, to Muslims, Buddhists, Shintoists, and Hinduists? That is the secret of the Father that we should not be preoccupied to know. It belongs to each one of us to be humble and confess our ignorance with regard to the secret of the Father. One thing we should not stop doing is to thank our Lord that he has allowed us to now him and believe in him.

Let us ask our Lord to bless us so that we come to know him and his kingdom may grow within us. Let us pray also for all our deacons that they serve our Lord by serving their brothers and sister with dedication and devotion. May God bless you all!

Acts 6: 1-7; 1 Peter 2: 4-9; John 14: 1-12



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