

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you from Our Risen Christ. Amen!

The Gospel lessons after the Easter Sunday which has seven Sundays are all taken from the Gospel according to John. But what made today's gospel text special is that Jesus had a very touchy moments with his disciples as they discussed about what would happen in the future after Jesus is gone. Not only on today's gospel but even starting in Chapter 13 of John, the disciples asked what's to become of them? First Peter, then Thomas, Philip, and Judas(not Iscariot). Judas - and his question introduces us to today's text--Judas wants to know why Jesus is revealing himself just to the disciples and not to the whole world? How did we get so lucky, Judas must wondered?

And Jesus answered him and the disciples in talking about the coming of the Holy Spirit that we will celebrate in two weeks on Pentecost Sunday. But as of today, we are clear about the meaning of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is within us so that we can be reminded of Jesus' words and teachings as the Spirit whispers those things into our hearts, prompting us to remember what we might otherwise forget.

This is a comforting message for us to be reminded that Christ is already at work in you and me. Which made us think today that we need to be more aware of that. Because knowing that the Holy Spirit is within us makes us more intentional in following Jesus along the way which we are already traveling with him.

Not only that but, it gives us a reassurance to be who we are. I have said this before that **God meets us where we are**. Most of the time, we are trying to *become* something that we are not, instead of just *being* who we already are. But in today's gospel text Jesus reassures us that the Holy Spirit is within us because God already sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples and on to us on our Baptism and we will be taught and we will be reminded about Jesus' words and teaching and Jesus' way of life.

Having said that, I want us today to dwell on Jesus' words saying, "**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.**" John 14 : 27 Every Sunday, we share God's peace to each other, a very good thing to do. We greet each other with Peace!

Most of the time, I wonder about what do we imagine and how do we understand God's peace because Jesus continues on saying, "**I do not give to you as the world gives**" referring about the different kind of peace that the world would give. Are you with me in this differentiation between Jesus' peace and the world's peace?

When we said the word peace, what comes to my mind first is simply the cessation of any conflict. The end of any violence act, which is a good thing! We always pray for peace at our home, in our community, and wherever there is a conflict. We pray for the end of something negative. But I want us to reflect on Jesus' Peace.

We have to look at the context of this text in order for us to understand what Jesus' Peace is. Remember, that this gospel text described of what happened the night of Jesus' betrayal, the

evening when he will be handed over to those who hate him and who will take him away to be executed. And yet in that moment, Jesus not only senses peace but gives it to others.

The peace that Jesus offers is more than the absence of something negative. Indeed, It has its own presence and gravity. I have seen it in many of us. Despite of the fact of what is going on in our lives, we feel “at peace”. That is the peace of Jesus that I want us to think about. This feeling of the sense of wholeness, even rightness, more than the absence of a struggle or a conflict we are facing. It is that kind of sense of harmony with those persons and things around us we felt when we have Jesus' peace. The Peace that connotes a sense of satisfaction, a sense of fulfillment even amidst our struggles and hardship in life, conflict and disruption and what not....but we are at peace! That is the main message for us today.

But here is the thing Trinity member, this peace is a gift of God. Something we sense most keenly when we give over to God a certain amount of control of all the things that we worry about, things that normally pressure on us. I know it is hard thing to do. Because we want to be in control of what we are doing and we have a tendency to fix things out, until we can't do anything anymore!

But to experience Jesus' peace, is to recognize that there are limits to what we can affect or achieve on our own, and sensing those limits, we place ourselves, our loved ones, our fortunes, and our future in God's hands. That is the point!

I am not saying that we simply surrender responsibility then, but rather that we And God's response is to give us peace, a peace that allows us to lift our look from the troubles that overwhelmed us and see those around us as gifts of God worthy of our love and our attention.

The last point I want to make about Jesus' peace is this, **Jesus gives it freely**. Jesus gives peace with no expectation of return. But Jesus wants us to pass it on. We are giving others the gift we have received. The depth of God's gift of peace for us. The promise that no matter what happens, God will not abandon us but is always working for our good and through us for the good of our neighbor and the world. That is the work of God in our life. That is God's peace that Jesus gives us. The promise that God loves us more than anything and will hold on to us through all that may come.

God wants us to share God's peace to others. But remember, we cannot move to declare that God's peace is something that we can seek or grasp. **God's peace is for us only to receive**. And we can receive it when we release our grip on the many things we are trying to hold onto. With open hands only that we can receive God's gift of peace.

Trinity members, God loves us and God wants to use us, to share God's love to the world. We are blessed by God in many ways, let us be a blessing to others in our lives. “The peace of Christ be with you.”

Amen!