

“JESUS saith unto his disciples: If ye love me, **keep my commandments.**

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter,

that he may abide with you for ever;

even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,

because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him;

for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

“I” will not leave you comfortless...

If a man love me...he will keep my words”

Earlier in this same chapter (14) Jesus tells his Apostles’

“In my Father house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you...

I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me...”

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost

I continue this morning with the theme of the past several weeks: Joy and Peace and Hope.

This day of Whit-sun-day (called by many the Day of Pentecost) was a holiday for the Jews /

in remembrance of the Law then given to them, via Moses (we all remember those words that were written in stone...)

and now on this day: Christians hear Jesus telling the Apostles to “keep my Commandments” & “keep my words.”

thus being Jew or Gentile we celebrate this day by being obedient to God as He has commanded.

This day - the sending of the Holy Spirit / was of such importance / that it was not an angel that gave the message / of the coming of the Spirit, (as with the coming of Jesus),

but it is our Lord Himself who gives this message.

Fifty day earlier there was Celebration and Joy at the resurrection of our Lord,

and He now brings **Joy and Peace** to His Apostles by His appearing's as He revealed Himself, and as he explained His words to His Apostles...

And now He is telling the Apostles that they were going to be deprived, very soon, of His presence –

He is to be gone from them –

and surely they were troubled by his leaving again; this news had to trouble their hearts (and their spirits.)

Oh yes, one could say that the “state of comfort” which they and we so desperately sought ...

is a “Comforter” so sorely needed / then and now.

(?) And let me ask you - is this not typical of Lord(?) –

for He always knows exactly what we need...but so often we are or we become people he would call “ye of little faith” – of little hope.

So now, instead of God writing His laws once again in stone, He will do even more,

as He will send / His words into their hearts (into our hearts) –

not with letters on a stone but with Spirit,

and this time it is not of a Spirit of fear - but of Love –

dare we say a **“spirit of Hope?”**

Now God’s love will be shed abroad into the Hearts of those who hear His words and **Keep Them!**

After all this: it now simply boils down to “come ye in with me” – “if ye love me.”

You see, it is He who loved us first ... and now, we are to return His Love by keeping His words –

HE / WE / KEEPING – these words all go together – for they are like links in the chain of life – of Faith!

We have Joy and Peace this morning / in His Words / as we have a great comfort / in that Jesus actually prays for us:

(Jhn 17:9) I pray for them: I pray **not for the world**, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

Let us go deeper and discover a beauty only which God (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) can reveal.

For here is the article offered to us / and set down for us in the Gospel.

“I will pray the Father” that is Jesus Christ (the Son)

And He shall “give it” - that is the Father (His person is actually named here for us) – “Father”...

and He will give us **“another”** – yes, a third person – the Holy Ghost (he sends “another Comforter.”)

Do you not hear – One is praying / the other is prayed to / and the third is prayed for...

Open your eyes and see - the Son praying, the Father granting, the Spirit “comforting” –

A plain distinction of the three is revealed: a plain revelation of God (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.)

Yes brothers and sisters – **“we are such a blessed’ people.”**

Remember the words of Christ from the Cross “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”

Now compare those words, which came from passion and crucifixion, with those this morning

as we hear Him say “Father **give** them” – give them the Holy Ghost to teach them, dare I say to **Sanctify them**”.

This is the prayer of Jesus, and His word did prevail.

For each of you “His Father did send, and the Holy Ghost did come” as we witness this day.

As I stated last week – we all can relate in our daily lives, / as orphans who at times are cast down, /

to the Joys and sadness which occurred, even in the heavens themselves;

through the Joy of Creation, the Peace of the seventh day of rest, and then the sadness of the Fall of Mankind –

so this pleasure we feel this morning is the “comfort” we all seek –

it is a “comfort” that we all need –

so a “Comforter” we are given, it is worth much.

And this Spirit – this Holy Ghost – who Jesus says “shall teach you all things,

and bring all things to your remembrance,

whatsoever I have said unto you.”

This is a spirit for all seasons.

When troubled with false claims and opinions (the lies and deceits of this wicked world), at those times: He is to be the “Spirit of truth”

and when assaulted with trials, tribulations, desires, and temptations; then let Him be a “spirit of holiness” which sanctifies and guides us.

Finally, when oppressed with fear and sorrow: it is the time for “the Holy Ghost the Comforter.”

As times can “chill” ones heart and mind, He appeareth on this day in fire, to give warmth to the Apostles;

and in tongue (which can be an instrument of comfort) by ministering the Word in its due season,

and cloven (as to cleave – to you) that you might meet the dismays, of all sorts, and be “Comforted.”

So now this day, we are given another Comforter – one that will be with us “for ever.”

Christ had been our Comforter while He was our Bridegroom and we were the children of the Bridegroom,

but now it is expedient that He should go,

expedient that we have Him in heaven,

and expedient that we have a “Comforter” on earth –

In heaven, on earth, never doubt that He is here for you!

With this new covenant, as with other covenants, there is a seal.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is “the seal” of the New Testament –

for Christ saith: “this is my blood of the New Testament”

therefore; we are entitled to the comfort of His Sacrament:

We hear Him say “Do This”; so He would have us “TO DO.”

It did not escaped the Divines that there is not only comfort by hearing the word,

but that we may “taste” also of His goodness, and that as often as possible –

yes, He is a gracious and a loving God to His people.

It is not only by the letter which we read, and the word which we do hear,

but by the flesh that we do eat, and the blood that we do drink at His table,

that we are made partakers of His Spirit; thus, the “Comfort” of it.

One thing we are sure of: In His flesh and blood / His spirit is within them / thus....

As the Law brought together the 12 tribes of Israel under a moral standard,

the Spirit converts the Apostles / into His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church,

the new Israel –

a church which spreads forth the gospel and performs His mission throughout the world.

Thus this day is known as the Birthday of the Church.

And the Church of Jesus Christ is still our “Comfort,” even today.

All of our Hope (our desires and expectations) rests upon the revelation of God – The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

It is through Christ’s Church that He feeds us with His Body and Blood...

and why is this important?

For this is the wellspring from which our faith grows – and it through Faith that our Hope is strengthened and refreshed.

Our Hope is not a faithless hope of wishing or of desires,
nor a hope based upon reason, relativism, nor secular thought;

but our Hope is of “Truth” (I am the way, truth, and life)

and it is the foundation upon which we stand in time of battle with the world of sin and deceit.

The foundation from which “True” Joy is found, and the way into which is found “True” Peace...

The Church is here to feed you daily, its doors are open unto all who wish to come into the “house of the Lord.”

Christ Church is here for your Joy, your Peace, and your Hope is fed within its doors.

But here is the tough part:

Yes, this Spirit is poured out / upon them then and upon us today, /

and this pouring out of God’s Spirit fulfills the prophecy

of the sending of the Spirit.

We know the Spirits impact upon the Apostles – for they established His Church – the Apostolic Church in which you sit.

The question is: what impact has the Spirit upon you? Upon each of “us.”

For some, religion is not much more than a verbal confession,

a matter of ease ...

it beomes a sitting thing and ourselves merely passive in it;

sitting still, and hearing a Sermon and even an Anthem, and being saved;

as if the choir, or of the preacher, by their acts can save you.

Faith can become void and empty as it becomes not in what we do ourselves, without so much as anything being done by us –

not any pouring out on our part, no not any giving on our part –

and yet some will still proclaim a calling from the Lord.

It seems as if “**what is our duty**” we care not much for –

Today, let us all awake and arise, from this day forward, and accept the challenge of the calling of Christ -

Let our lives become, step by step, totally within “**Him**” in thought, word, and DEED!

Wake up, let the tongues of fire awaken us from the dullness of sin,

and let us, from this day forth, live a life full

of **True Joy**, **True Peace**, as we walk within the **True Hope** of His calling.

Saved, Salvation, Sanctification –

it is all offered to you within His One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Call on His name with the **“cup of salvation”** in your hand.

It is His blood that hath “a voice”; yes, His pure, precious, and innocent blood.

The blood of Abel did cry out to God ears, but nothing so loud / as the blood of this **“cup of blessing,”**

for it is the **“communion”** (between heaven and earth) – yes, between **God and Man...**

and the voice of is heard above all,

it’s cry will drown out all other cries

and it differs in that it cries out

for far better things than that of Abel;

for it cry’s is not of “revenge” but of **“remission”** of sins,

whereof / within itself / THE BODY AND BLOOD pays the **full price** for our souls,

for **our salvation** in the Day of Lord is assured in **“Him”**,

when and where **nothing else** will save us.

His message:

If ye love me, **keep my commandments...Keep my words...**

The hour cometh and now is....