



JESUS COMFORTS AND ASKS DISCIPLES TO HAVE FAITH

There are two exhortations that Jesus asks of his disciples in the first verse of John 14 as he bids them farewell because of his impending death and departure. Firstly, that their hearts not be troubled. Secondly, that they have faith in him inasmuch as they have faith in God.

Firstly, that their hearts not be troubled. Jesus said this even if he himself had experienced being troubled in the Gospel of John three times in relation to his coming hour. One, when his beloved friend Lazarus died, seeing Mary and the Jews weeping, Jesus became perturbed and deeply troubled (Jn 11: 33). The death of Lazarus foretells of his own death. In the Gospel of John, the resurrection of Lazarus is the main reason why the chief priest and the Pharisees planned and decided to kill Jesus (cf. Jn 11: 53). Two, when some Greeks came wanting to see him. He revealed to his disciples that the hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Although troubled, he remarked that what else should he say knowing that it was for this purpose that he came (Jn 12: 27). Three, he also felt troubled after washing his disciples' feet and while predicting Judas' betrayal (Jn 13:21). However, because of his deep and intimate relationship with the Father, because of his obedience to the Father's will, he willingly accepted his mission, and his heart felt peace. When our hearts are one with God's, then we shall truly be at rest.

Later in v. 27, he will repeat this exhortation to them, adding the words "or afraid" (an example of a literary inclusion). In the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation as though a refrain, one will find God comforting his people with the words "Do not be afraid" or



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its variants (Cf. Gn 15: 1; Rev 1: 17). Such words are in themselves invitation to faith. For fear and faith cannot occupy the same space.

Secondly, he asked his disciples to have faith in Him, inasmuch as they have faith in God. Having been sent by God, the disciples need to believe in Jesus. For whoever believes in Jesus, believes not only in him but also in the one who sent him and whoever sees him, sees the one who sent him (Jn 12:44-45). In our Gospel today from John 14: 1-6, like the good disciples, let us heed the call of Jesus to have faith in him for the following reasons: (1) Jesus is God, the Son of the Father; (2) Jesus will return to the Father, but will come back again for us; and (3) Jesus is our Way to the Father.

Jesus is God, the Son of the Father. In verse 2, Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Here, Jesus calls God again his Father. During the Feast of the Dedication (Cf. Jn 10:22-42), we find Jesus revealing publicly to the Jews in Jerusalem, "The Father and I are one" (Jn 10:30). But the Jews could not accept it because they thought of Jesus as merely a man, thus they accused him of blasphemy. They tried to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands, for the hour had not yet come. But when the hour had finally come, yes, Jesus died as what Paul says now in our First Reading from Acts of the Apostles (as Paul testifies to his fellow Israelites in a synagogue), but God raised up Jesus from the dead in fulfillment of the Scriptures

"as it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my son; this day I have begotten you" (Acts 13:30, 33).

Jesus will return to the Father, but will come back again for us. In verse 3, Jesus remarked, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again..." In the Washing of the Disciples' Feet (Cf. Jn 13:1-20), Jesus was "fully aware that the Father had put everything in his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God" (Jn 13: 3). To return to God is not just our desire but God's. Jesus promises to take us to himself so that where he is we may also be (v. 3). He will return to God the Father to prepare a place for us, since in his Father's house there are many dwelling places. This capacious notion of God's dwelling places speaks of God's immense love for all of us, especially to those who come to him through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is our Way to the Father. In verse 6, Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Earlier in John 10: 9, Jesus also said, "I am the Gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved..." With this triple I AM, Jesus expresses himself as the perfect revealer of God. We know of God, the Father and the Holy Spirit, because of Jesus the Christ. As a matter of fact, he is not just the Revealer but the revelation himself, for he is the Word of the Father. Truly, he is the Way, the only Way to God the Father for he carries the truth of the revelation and the life which it offers consequently.

Today, let us continue listen to Jesus, who is the Word of the Father. Let us turn to him in faith that our hearts may rest in God's abode and peace.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Rev 5: 9–10)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

You have redeemed us, Lord, by your Blood, from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us into a kingdom, priests for our God, alleluia.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—This first friday of the month, Jesus tells his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” He invites them to have faith in Him. May we courageously heed Jesus’ invitation to have faith in Him and to not let our hearts be troubled because Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
(Pause)

P—Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All—For we have sinned against you.

P—Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All—And grant us your salvation.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, author of our freedom and of our salvation, listen to the voice of our pleading and grant that those you have redeemed by the shedding of your Son’s Blood may have life through you and, under your protection, rejoice for ever unharmed.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Acts 13:26–33)

(Sit)

The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection is the fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation for all of us.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

WHEN Paul came to Antioch in Pisidia, he said in the synagogue: “My brothers, children of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and their leaders failed to recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the oracles of the prophets that are read sabbath after sabbath. For even though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him put to death, and when they had accomplished all that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and placed him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses before the people. We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you that what God promised our fathers he has brought to fulfillment for us, their children, by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second psalm, *You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.*”

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 2)

R—You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.

1. “I myself have set up my king

on Zion, my holy mountain.” I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.” (R)

2. “Ask of me and I will give you the nations for an inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession. You shall rule them with an iron rod; you shall shatter them like an earthen dish.” (R)

3. And now, O kings, give heed; take warning, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice before him; with trembling rejoice. (R)

Verse before the Gospel

(Jn 14:6) *(Stand)*

All— Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, and the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Jn 14:1–6)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS said to his disciples: “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 may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Sit)

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Jesus asks us to dismiss useless anxieties from our minds, for if we ask the Father in his name, our prayers will be

granted. And so with confidence in Christ Jesus, we pray:

R—Lord, hear our prayer.

C—May we follow the way of love, which is to love you, God our Father, with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we hold on to the truth that Jesus alone is our Master and Teacher and he has the words of eternal life. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we confess that Jesus is our Resurrection and Life and that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. We pray: **(R)**

C—May nothing disturb us, may nothing frighten us, for whoever has you, O God, lacks nothing. We pray: **(R)**

C—Comfort the dying and welcome our departed ones to your loving communion. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Father, we turn to you with confidence that if we ask anything according to your will, you will hear us. Hear our prayer, we implore you, in Jesus' name.
All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts *(Stand)*

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—Accept in compassion, Lord, we pray, the offerings of your family, that under your protective care they may never lose what they have received, but attain the gifts that are eternal.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface of Easter I

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying, he has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. *(Kneel)*

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion *(Kneel)*

P—Behold the Lamb of God...

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon *(Rom 4: 25)*

Christ our Lord was handed

over for our transgressions and was raised again for our justification, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion *(Stand)*

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray, those whom you have saved by your kindness, that, redeemed by the Passion of your Son, they may rejoice in his Resurrection Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing.

All—Amen.

P—May he, by whose redeeming work you have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make you heirs to an eternal inheritance.

All—Amen.

P—And may you, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on this earth, be united with him in the homeland of heaven.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass has been offered. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART *of Jesus*

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petition/s).*

To whom can I turn to if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted,

protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. Amen.

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