

May 22, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

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THE LAST SUPPER DISCOURSES

By Sister Kit Gray, CSJ

Introduction

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of the lengthy "Last Supper Discourses" of Jesus on the night before he died (chapters 14-17). These "discourses" are full of prayers for the disciples and all believers (that they all may be one, Jn. 17:21); descriptions of what will happen to Jesus and to his followers (they will expel you from the synagogues, Jn. 16:1); assurances that he will be with them in all the circumstances of their lives after his death (I am going away and I will come back to you, Jn. 14:28); and promises about the Spirit, the one who will teach and remind them of all that he said while he was with them (Jn. 14:24). Jesus speaks in very intimate terms of his relationship with the Father (I am in the Father and the Father is in me, Jn. 14:11) and of his relationship with the disciples (I am the vine, you are the branches, Jn. 15:1).

Today's Gospel

The disciples said to Jesus, "Now you are talking plainly, and not in any figure of speech. Now we realize that you know everything and that you do not need to have anyone question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God."

Jesus answered them, "Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

JOHN 16:29-33



Man stands alone outside a small house
Photo by Pixabay / Pexels

Reflection

What words or phrases resonate with you?

How do you feel hearing Jesus say, “you will leave me alone”?

How do you feel hearing Jesus say, “But I am not alone, because the Father is with me”?

What does “take courage, I have conquered the world” mean to you?

For Prayer

*O Christ Jesus
When all is darkness,
And we feel our weakness and helplessness,
Give us the sense of Your Presence,
Your Love and Your Strength.
Help us to have perfect trust,
In Your protecting love,
And strengthening power,
So that nothing may frighten or worry us,
For, living close to You,
We shall see Your Hand,
Your Purpose, Your Will through all things.*

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