

May 24, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

TRUTH, JOY, AND THE WORLD

By Sister Kit Gray, CSJ

*Please read the introduction from yesterday's Daily Reflection,
[available here.](#)*

Reflection

Words have power and multiple meanings; understanding them is often complicated by the challenges of translation. Three words stand out for me in today's reading from John's Gospel -- joy, world, and truth. **What do these words mean to you?**

Joy is referred to in several places in John's Gospel: If you loved me, you would REJOICE that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I (Jn. 14:28); I have said these things to you so that my JOY may be in you, and that your JOY may be complete (Jn. 15:11); ... your pain will turn into JOY.... So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your

hearts will REJOICE, and no one will take your JOY from you (Jn. 16:20-22); ask and you will receive, so that your JOY may be complete (Jn. 16:24).

My sense from reading these passages is that joy is directly connected to our relationship with Christ, who reveals the Father to us and invites us into intimacy with him.

The Greek word “kosmos” is translated as “world” throughout John’s Gospel; however, there are different meanings for that word:

- The ordered universe (Jn. 17:5 and 17:24)
- The earth in contrast to heaven (Jn. 6:14 and 9:39)
- The universe where humans dwell (Jn. 12:25 and 16: 21)
- Humankind (Jn. 8:12 and 9:5)
- The system that is hostile to God (Jn. 8:23, 12:31)

In today’s passage, the disciples “do not belong to the world,” the world that is hostile to God’s design and dream for the world. On the other hand, the disciples are sent -- as Jesus was -- “into the world,” to all creation, to share the Good News.

The word truth (Greek, aletheia) is found twenty-five times in John’s Gospel; it means the “unconcealed” or “the opened.” In this sense, it means revelation; Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God. The truth is the person of Jesus (I am the truth, Jn. 14:6); his teaching (I give you a new commandment, love one another, Jn. 13:34); and a way of life (I am the way, Jn. 14:6).

WITH THESE IDEAS IN MIND, READ THE PASSAGE BELOW.



Joyful baby is tossed in the air
Photo by Aleksandr Balandin / Pexels

Today's Gospel

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying: “Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the Evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

JOHN 17:11b-19

For Prayer

*Jesus, on the night before you died,
You prayed for us.
You prayed that we would all be one,
That we would share the joy you and your Father and the Spirit share,
That we would be protected from the Evil One,
That we would be consecrated in the truth.
Help us to “live into” your prayer for us with our minds, hearts, and lives.
Amen*

SR. KIT GRAY, CSJ

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

[Support Us Here](#)



[Visit Website](#)

[\(714\) 744-3172](#)

[Join Mailing List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 (714) 744-3175

[Unsubscribe knuernberg@csjorange.org](mailto:knuernberg@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bythecsd@csjorange.org