

June 4, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

INTO THE HEART OF THE WORLD

By Lucy Dominguez

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

Reflection

We live in a world full of contradictions: beauty and violence, connection and isolation, hope and cynicism. And yet, Jesus sends us into this very world, not to withdraw from its pain but to remain in it as bearers of light. He prays that we may be one, as he and the Father are one, a unity built on divine love that embraces difference and calls us into deeper communion.

Jesus names the world's hatred to acknowledge the cost of love. Living as people of truth and compassion means we will sometimes stand apart from the values of power, greed, or indifference. But we are not alone. "I consecrate myself for them," Jesus says. He stands with us, walks with us, and blesses the path forward.

In his inaugural address, Pope Leo XIV emphasized the importance of unity and mission within the Church. He stated: "Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another." As followers of Christ, we are called to embody this unity and mission. Our commitment to truth and love becomes a beacon of hope in a world often marked by division and strife.

Rooted in Jesus' prayer and strengthened by his presence, we are invited to love boldly, to listen deeply, and to remain steadfast in hope. May our lives reflect the unity Christ desires, and may we walk together toward God, carrying light into every place.



People Holding Each Other's Hands
Photo by Fauxels

For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- Where in my life am I being called to embody Christ's unity and love, especially in the midst of division or contradiction?
 - How can I remain rooted in truth and compassion while engaging a world that often resists these values?
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For Prayer

We Are One With You

*O God, we are one with you. You have made us one with you.
You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us.
Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts. Help
us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual
rejection.*

*O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept
you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole
being, because our being is your being, our spirit is rooted in your spirit. Fill
us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse
ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world,
and which makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has
overcome. Love is victorious.*

THOMAS MERTON

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