

April 30, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

THE PROMISE OF PEACE AND PRESENCE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you,

'I am going away, and I will come back to you.'"

JOHN 14:27-28

Reflection

Easter Resurrection was celebrated a month ago with great rejoicing. The resurrection gives form and color to our lives. Yet the joy and intimacy of Jesus may seem to be waning as we move through the succession of ordinary days. The readings continue to remind us of God's desired intimacy with us.

There is hope in the Gospel message today. We are reminded of the “peace the world cannot give.” It is the peace of God’s great love in which we live, and move, and have our being. Life flows from the outpouring of his life for our sake.

While at times we may experience the seeming absence of God, the promise is that God is never far away. Longing for God reflects our desire to be one with God. Longing is gift to us and makes the felt sense of God with us even more poignant. Jesus promises to return for us. This says something to me of the ebb and flow of my response to his indwelling presence. Whether in the ordinary of each day, or in deeper union, or in times of troubled hearts, God’s promise to be with us remains true.

Every moment holds the potential to reveal God, to be surprised with the gentle, lavish love of God for us. We are God’s own. Our hearts yearn for more of God and to recognize God with us, strengthening and sustaining us for the journey that is ours.

The love and mercy of God are always available. Let us pray to see as God sees - - beauty, goodness, truth, love, joy, hope, and faith are within us and all around us. Please God, give us eyes to see ourselves and our beautiful, yet wounded, world held in your loving embrace.

May the coming of the Holy Spirit, as promised us by Jesus, open the eyes of our hearts, deepen our faith, and hone our senses to discern God with us, releasing us from fear, and extending special *peace*. God *comes back* to us every day.



Photo of Man Sitting in a Cave

Photo by M. Venter

For Pondering

- What is your experience of God's abiding peace?
- What is the difference between the peace Jesus promises and worldly peace?
- From what do you need to be freed so to recognize God's indwelling presence?

For Prayer

*Loving and gracious God,
please awaken our souls
to your abiding presence and extravagant love.
Calm our restless hearts as you release us from fear and doubt.
Teach us and open us to your ways of lasting peace.
Pour forth great faith, hope, and love into our hearts
so we might be your loving presence in the world.
Please make us more your own each day.
Amen.*

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