**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 24-25, 2025**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Gospel Reading**

Jn 14:23-29

Jesus answered and said to him, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you.

The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.

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.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe.”

**Intercession**

May we prepare for Christ’s coming in our midst by keeping His commandments and loving one another, such as supporting the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

The apostles don’t know what’s coming. Jesus will be crucified and leave them. Then He will return to them with His resurrection. Finally, His time on earth will once again end with the Ascension. Like us, they only understand what they know to be true, the here and now. Jesus is here with them now, so won’t He always be?

Jesus tries to gently prepare them for His eventual departure from His earthly existence because He knows it will be upsetting. He says, “Peace I leave with you…Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” God helps us in times of confusion and distress. Our Lord can be a great source of comfort during trying times. We only need to remember to call on Him, and He will answer us with, “Peace I give to you.” Perhaps this peace will come to us in an unexpected way, as in Jesus sending the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles after the Ascension, But we can trust that He will not abandon us.

As Christ sends us His peace in times of need, let us do the same for others by supporting the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

Clinging to the past will prevent us from living the present. Holding fast to what we know will preclude us from welcoming what is to come. Jesus will not always be physically present to the apostles, for He must return to the Father. But He consoles His followers with the assurance that He will abide in them: “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”

We can prepare a dwelling for God within us by keeping His commandments and loving Christ. Then we will experience His peace and presence in this life and be a welcomed guest in the next, for Jesus promises us that “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” (Luke 14:3).

We can invite Christ to abide in us by sharing His love with others. And we can bring Christ’s welcoming spirit to those in need through our prayers and support of the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Dove with bright light as a backdrop

Header: “My peace I give to you.” – John 14:27

Copy: Call on Jesus to accompany you in times of distress. We can bring Christ’s peace to those in need by supporting the Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal.