

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

28th April, 2021

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, my soul ! Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe !
You make springs gush forth in the valleys: they flow in between the hills.
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing their
song.

The trees of the Lord drink their fill, the cedars he planted on Lebanon;
there the birds build their nests; on the tree-top the stork has her home,
How many are your works, O Lord ! In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
I will sing to the Lord all my life, make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord.

LITANY OF PRAISE:

May your glory last for ever, O Lord !

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 2:14, 36-39

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: "The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ." Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, "What must we do, brothers ?" "You must repent", Peter answered, "and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself".
The word of the Lord.

REFLECTION: (Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa OFM.Cap)

Where does the Holy Spirit's role as guide actually touch us ? The first arena of guidance is the conscience. What exactly is the famous "voice of conscience", if not a kind of "receiving-set" through which the Holy Spirit speaks to us ? . . The guidance of the Holy Spirit, given through the workings

of conscience, extends beyond the Church and reaches every human being. . . In believers the inner guide is, so to say, empowered and raised to a higher order by the anointing that "teaches everything" and so it is an infallible guide, if we listen to it.

There is a second way in which the Holy Spirit guides us and it is the Church. The witness of the Holy Spirit within each of us needs to match and merge with the outward, visible and objective testimony which is the apostolic commission to teach, the magisterium. In the Book of Revelation, at the close of each of the seven letters, we hear this admonition: "Let anyone who has an ear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches." For the Spirit speaks to the Church too, and to the community, and not only to individuals. In the Acts, Peter brings together the two forms - the inward and the outward, the personal and the public - of the Spirit's witness. He had spoken to the crowds of Christ and his hearers were "cut to the heart". He later said the same things to the rulers and members of the Sanhedrin, and they were infuriated. The same sermon, the same preacher, but the outcome very different. Why? The explanation is given in what Peter himself said in that very situation: "We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him".

The two testimonies need to come together so that faith may be released; the testimony of the apostles who proclaim the Word, and the testimony of the Spirit that enables the listener to receive the Word. In the case of the Sanhedrin, the inner testimony of the Spirit was missing, because God gives the Spirit "to those who obey him", and they had not shown themselves willing to obey.

INTERCESSIONS:

Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

CLOSING PRAYER: (Fr.Pat Sayles SSC)

**May the Love of the Spirit enfold you;
may the strength of the Spirit uphold you;
may the Peace of the Spirit refresh you;
may the Joy of the Spirit uplift you;
may the Light of the Spirit shine on you;
may the Mercy of the Spirit rekindle you;
may the Spirit renew your innermost being.**

Amen.

