

RAISE
A
HALLE
LUJAH

WEEK SIX

EASTER
PACKAGE

RAISE A HALLE LUJAH DAY AND NIGHT SUNDAY

[17 May 2020] Sunday Gospel - John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

RAISE A HALLE LUJAH

REFLECTION

Reflection

In the gospel today, I am reminded that God desires to be in a personal relationship with us and shows that through the gift of the Holy Spirit! Sometimes I forget that the Holy Spirit is in fact, a gift. When Jesus ascended into Heaven and departed from earth, God didn't need to send us His Holy Spirit. Out of love, and knowing that we need Him, God did so to remind us always and forever of His loving presence.

Here, Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit to his disciples as an "Advocate to be with us forever". He tells his disciples that even as He ascends into Heaven and leaves this earth, His spirit will remain with us, as a defender, and as someone who appeals to the Father for us! That is Jesus' message to us today too – While it seems like we are most alone and isolated now in our own homes, we are far from being alone for His Spirit is "in" and "with" us always.

This Holy Spirit that reassures us of Jesus' presence is the same spirit of Truth that convicts us of who God is, and who we are as children of God! With the Spirit that reaches the depths of God (1 Cor 10:11), we are able to recognise God's love in different situations, even in seemingly hopeless ones. Do we then allow the Spirit access to all areas of our lives, so that we may come out of places of unbelief into God's truth?

We are invited at the beginning and end of this gospel to love Jesus and to keep His commandments. Knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us, let us be unafraid to say "Come Holy Spirit", "Come and fill our hearts with your love"! The more we rely on the Holy Spirit, the more we are empowered to desire and love God better, the more we will respond to Jesus' invitation out of love and obedience to Him.

Melissa Foo

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REFLECTIONS QUESTIONS

- 1) What image of the Holy Spirit do I hold close to my heart? (e.g. Counsellor, Advocate)
- 2) What areas of my life do I need to allow the Holy Spirit to enter into?
- 3) What virtue is the Holy Spirit inviting me to grow in?

RAISE A HALLE LUJAH PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Holy Spirit - Bryan & Katie Torwalt

There's nothing worth more
That will ever come close
No thing can compare
You're our living hope
Your presence

I've tasted & seen
Of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free
& My shame is undone
In Your presence, Lord

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place & fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord
Your presence, Lord

By Your presence, Lord
Your presence, Lord
Your presence
Your presence, Lord

Let us become more aware
Of Your presence
Let us experience
The glory of Your goodness

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place & fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord

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INVITATION

Praying with Song

- 1) Start by thanking God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Allow the lyrics of the song to minister to you.
- 3) Write out one Truth that the Lord is saying to you!