

Sisters and Brothers, let us love one another.

04/14/2024

### Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is **TODAY** at 3pm. We will have Children's ministry and a Formation I teaching.
- Registration for **Camp Jesus** is still open. This year's camp will be held at MSM from June 10 to 14. More information can be found [here](#).
- [GodsDelight.org](http://GodsDelight.org) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), [teachings](#), and [Jubilee](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

### Reflection

The [Gospel](#) today tells the story of one of Jesus' appearances to the disciples but stops one verse short of His direction to remain until they receive power. This is the Father's two-part plan to redeem us...the resurrection of our Lord and the impartation of His Holy Spirit.

In reflecting on this, I recalled the change of so many in our Community who were completely transformed but this one-two punch: a personal encounter with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is God's love for us expressed to perfection...that changes us forever...as it did the early disciples.

In considering all the scriptures the Church discerned for us today and asking the Spirit for a message for our Community, I offer that the Spirit wants to remind us that it is never too late.

The early disciples spent three years with Jesus, witnessed miracle after miracle, and still they abandoned Him, denied Him, and betrayed Him. In our own way we all fall short of our call. The consolation we can take from the readings today is that God never abandons us and every day, every moment of every day, is a new opportunity to begin again.

The punch line of Peter's address in the [First Reading](#) is the last line where he urged everyone to repent. He was addressing those who may have been in the crowd when Jesus was before Pilate, those likely carrying a heavy burden. His

message was straightforward, God works through our ignorance, through our failures, through our sin, to accomplish His perfect will. This is just as true today, for you and me. God is actively engaged in showing His love and calling us all home and never wants us to tire or give up in responding to His love, in responding to the gift of eternal life that Jesus won for us, and in responding to the offer of the power of His Holy Spirit! No matter where we are or what we have done Peter offers his words to each of us today.

If we are down on ourselves for any reason, troubled by what we may have gotten ourselves into, feelings of worthlessness, or just tired of fighting the battles of life...we are provided today with the perfect prayer in the [Responsorial Psalm](#). I encourage you to pray this with me today. Read it a few times and invite the Holy Spirit to bring the same consolation it brought David when he authored it and likely sang it over and over. Let us claim the Lord's joy, peace, and providence!

*Lord God, You are rich in mercy and hear my prayers. I call upon You today to wash me clean, heal my hurts, restore my soul, and give me Your joy and peace. Please bless the work of my hands as I seek to love You with all my heart and work each day to build Your kingdom. Thank You for the sisters and brothers You have provided me to support my walk toward my eternal home with You! Not only wash me clean but send me Your Holy Spirit to set my heart on fire for You. My prayer is that my love for You and my service of You, will be my witness and that many will come to know You as they witness my love in action. Please bless me and my family and all those You have given me to love! Amen."*

God Bless,  
David