**THURSDAY APRIL 21 – OCTAVE OF EASTER [C]**

**Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.**

**We are in the Cenacle. It is the evening of the first day after the sabbath, namely the day of the glorious resurrection of Jesus the Lord. Jesus fulfils his words that are revealed to us by the Gospel according to John: the gift of the Holy Spirit without measure:** “**The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven (is above all). He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy. For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.” (Jn 3, 31-36) First Jesus reveals that the mystery of death and of resurrection is the full and perfect fulfilment of everything that is written of Him in the Law, in the Prophets, in the Psalms. Explaining does not mean understanding. Among the teaching, the announcement of the truth and its understanding there is the abyss separating our flesh from the Holy Spirit. What to do so that the Apostles enter the truth of the Scripture? Giving them the Holy Spirit. The sentence: “He opened their minds to understand the scriptures” means that.**

**As the announcement is a gift of the Father, so also the understanding of what is announced is a gift of the Father. The Father gives us both gifts through the means of Christ Jesus. This was yesterday in the Cenacle. After the glorious ascension to heaven of Jesus the Lord, the Father gives both gifts through the means of the Apostles and in hierarchical communion with them, through every other member of his body. Here is how the Apostle Paul asks for this gift to the Father: “Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of (your) hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might.” (Eph 1, 15-19) Since the mind is opened to understand the Scriptures, this purpose might never be reached if first there is not the announcement of Christ Jesus according to the Scripture. If one announces a false Scripture, we attest that we are deprived of the Holy Spirit. The one who is deprived of the Holy Spirit might never open the mind to understand the Scripture. False Scripture, false understanding. True Scripture, true understanding. Both things are given in a true way if the Spirit of Jesus dwells with no measure in the heart of the one who gives the Scripture and opens the mind to its understanding. When the true Scripture is not given, it is a bad sing. One attests that he is deprived of the Holy Spirit. Instead of the Scripture, we give our thoughts. However, if we give our thoughts, they are thoughts of darkness and not of light, of falsity and not of truth. We do not work for salvation but for the perdition of man. He who is in the Holy Spirit immediately knows if the word he is listening comes from flesh or from the Spirit of the Lord. He knows it since the Spirit of God is delighted when he hears himself speaking in another heart. On the contrary, He grieves if He hears the other heart speaking by his sin and uttering burdens of sins. Instead, if we are without the Spirit of the Lord, but with the spirit of Satan in us, the opposite proceeding occurs. We are delighted when we listen to the teaching according to the world. While when we listen to a Word of light, a motion of hate and rebellion arises. It is the spirit of Satan in us who hates the truth, hates the light and rebels.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 24,35-48**

**Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.**

**Why should one start form Jerusalem? Because first Jesus spoke by his unfulfilled mystery. now with his death on the cross and his glorious resurrection, his mystery is perfect. Speaking by his fully fulfilled mystery, whoever wants can receive Him, true and only Christ of God, and receive the blessing promised to those who believe in his name. Now that the mystery is fulfilled, whoever does not believe is eternally responsible before God. May the mother of Jesus lead us from faith to faith today and ever.**