**THURSDAY MAY 26 – SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER [C]**

**Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.**

**In the Old Testament, the Lord always sends his prophets to announce the people the liberation, inviting them to rejoice:** “**Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies; The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals. I will remove disaster from among you, so that none may recount your disgrace. Yes, at that time I will deal with all who oppress you; I will save the lame, and assemble the outcasts; I will give them praise and renown in all the earth, when I bring about their restoration. At that time I will bring you home, and at that time I will gather you; For I will give you renown and praise, among all the peoples of the earth, When I bring about your restoration before your very eyes, says the LORD.” (Zep 3, 14-20)**

**Here is the cry of the prophet Isaiah, instead: “The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; With divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water; The abode where jackals lurk will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus. A highway will be there, called the holy way; No one unclean may pass over it, nor fools go astray on it. No lion will be there, nor beast of prey go up to be met upon it. It is for those with a journey to make, and on it the redeemed will walk. Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.” (Is 35, 1-10)**

**Only for a moment will the disciples be in sadness, in mourning, in weeping. Jesus will be crucified. But the crucifixion will not be his end. It is only the gate to rise up to heaven, before his Father, and be clothed with eternal glory. It is through the stairway of the cross that Jesus rises up to heaven and takes possession of his kingdom. If He does not rise up on the cross, Jesus might never take passion of his kingdom, he might never fulfil the redemption. His Incarnation would remain a useless mystery. Instead, it is the death by crucifixion that gives eternal life and full accomplishment to his mystery. The Apostles are still deprived of the Holy Spirit and they see all things from their mind made up of mud and earth. They can neither raise themselves to the contemplation of the mystery of Christ Jesus yet. It is infinitively beyond their mind. Jesus does not explain to them either. He would only have lost some precious time. Instead, He speaks to them in the human way, however announcing the highest truth of his resurrection. But the Lord had always united the two mysteries: the mystery of death and the mystery of resurrection making them one only mystery. Two mysteries of which one produces the other one. Impossible, the resurrection, without the death by crucifixion. Here is why the cross is the way giving fulfilment to the entire mystery of the Incarnated Word.**

**Let us read the text of Jn 16,16-20**

**"A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" So they said, "What is this 'little while' (of which he speaks)? We do not know what he means." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.**

**If death fulfils the entire mystery of Christ Jesus, the same law is valid for us. Even our death lived through Christ, lived in Christ, lived with Christ, gives eternal fulfilment to our mystery. Today this is the failure of our humanity. We die but not in Christ, not through Christ, not with Christ. We die from a death that leads us to eternal death instead of the eternal death. We die from a death from which hope does not arise. This is the fruit of our “sweet death”, that is true suicide and murder. It is a death that leads to the eternal desperation. Yet, today the Christian wants to die from this death. Truly, no one can die from Christ’s death if he does not live Christ Jesus’s life. Since today the Christian no longer lives Christ Jesus’s life, then he is led to die from the hopeless death, without glorious resurrection, without eternal life. When one does not live Christ’s life, neither does one live Christ’s thoughts. One lives the thoughts of the world that are thoughts of death with no hope and with no eternal life. May the Mother of God come to our rescue.**