

Scriptures April 6, 2025

First Reading *Revelations of Love* Chapters 15 & 26

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Anointed One.

No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

Again, our Lord showed himself to me, this time more glorious than I had seen him before. I learned that our soul will never find rest until it comes to the fullness of Christ's joy. So Christ said, again and again,

"I AM the one.

I AM the one.

I AM the one most honored.

I AM the one you love.

I AM the one you enjoy.

I AM the one you serve.

I AM the one you long for.

I AM the one you desire.

I AM the one you yearn for.

I AM the one who is everything.

I AM the one whom the holy church preaches and teaches.

I AM the one who showed myself to you."

There were so many words, I couldn't understand them all. But the joy I had in listening to those words went far beyond anything I could think or desire. I won't try to explain them, but, as the grace of God gives you love and understanding, you will know what God means.

Second Reading

John 12:1-8 NRSV

Mary Anoints Jesus

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **2** There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. **3** Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them^[a] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, **5** 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii^[b] and the money given to the poor?' **6** (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) **7** Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it^[c] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. **8** You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Third Reading *Revelations of Love* Chapter 15

I saw that God took great, spiritual delight in my soul. Because of that, I felt so strong, so spiritual that I was completely at ease.

My laughter and delight only lasted for a short while. Then I found myself changed. I felt abandoned. Depressed. Weary of life. But after a while, God gave me comfort again, so that I felt no fear, no depression, no physical or spiritual pain.

When I was feeling joy, I could have said with Saint Paul, "Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ." When I was depressed I could have said with Saint Peter, "Lord, save me. I am dying."

I knew joy one moment and pain the next. I was given this experience for a reason. Sometimes God leaves us on our own for the good of our soul. Sometimes God brings us joy and sometimes pain, but both are one love. Joy lasts, but pain is passing. God doesn't want us to feel pain, but wants us to pass right by that pain and live in God's endless love..