



God's Spirit on the city

# Day 1

[17 May]

## With Mary... find God within us

If Lent is the time to ask for help and Easter is the moment when our prayers are answered, to prepare for Pentecost is to strive to recognise this answer in our own lives.

Lent purified our desires and awakened the truest prayer of our hearts. And Easter has answered the deepest prayer of our hearts: the desire for true Life. Now, we are here engaged in a work of recognition (John 14:17), striving to welcome this answer truly and personally. In other words, we are here preparing to receive Him who abides with us, the Holy Spirit, the Living Spirit of the Risen Christ.

And how can we carry out this work?

"Whoever loves me" will recognize that the Father and I are living in him and for him. Whoever loves me – with agape ... agape? Even Peter recognized that he wasn't capable of this kind of love (John 21:15-19). Whoever loves me with agape "will keep my Word," and the Spirit who is the shared Life of the Father and the Son will overshadow him.

That was the beginning of the story for Mary of Nazareth!

This could be the beginning of our story too!

Because agape, the love that is in God, wasn't it given to us – as it was to Mary – by the Resurrection of Christ? Yes! It's for us to receive it with an open heart!

This love opens our eyes (John 14:17) to the Word of answer that dwells in us. This love makes us able to see daily, in the city and within us, the presence of God.

What, then, is our work in preparation for Pentecost?

Like Mary, "let us welcome with our entire being the love that God brings to us first" and we will receive the Holy Spirit! (Jerusalem Community Rule of Life, #1-3).

### THE WORD AS THE WAY

**John 14:15-18, 23-26** (© NRSVCE)

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. (...) Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.*

### WORDS TO PRAY

On this path that leads to you, O Father, send your Holy Spirit to dance within us so that your Word, present in our hearts, will summon us and guide our destinies.

At the daybreak of this retreat, please liberate us from everything that blocks our way and prevents us from recognizing your presence within us.

Come, Holy Spirit, unify us by your breath, so that together we can follow you and serve you in peace.

Grant us new life and the ability to radiate, every day, our joy to be called children of God.