



Day 5

[21 May]

Drawing near to Mary... find consolation

A little child plays tranquilly on the floor at Mass. He gets up and violently bonks his head on the pew. His cry of pain rips through the silence of the church and pierces the hearts of the faithful, affecting them deeply. His mother leans over and takes him into her arms. Consolation for the little one and for the assembly. Like the child in his mother's arms, let us be cradled by the Pentecost hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus*. May the Consoler, the Holy Spirit, with calming and enlivening refreshment, come wipe our tears and give us rest in the midst of our pain.

God wants to give us his Holy Spirit to console us. He is the Paraclete, the Protector who reminds us of God's words, the Promise that restores our hope for a new day when death and all of its footprints – tears, pain, cries – will be destroyed. He is also the hope for a new earth, new horizons when our life seems pointless. The Holy Spirit consoles us, here and now, because he has established his tent in the midst of us. He dwells with us.

And yet, it is so difficult for us to let ourselves be consoled. We prefer to be adults: "No, everything's fine, I don't need someone else to pick me up when I fall down..." We stifle our cries, we hide our tears, we bury our fears.

Will we let Mary lean down and take us into her arms like a mother cradles her little child? Will we dare to be little children before God? Let's tell Him our sufferings, stop hiding our tears from Him. This Pentecost, could we give Him the chance to wipe the tears from our eyes and to be our God? Could we let ourselves be consoled?

THE WORD AS THE WAY

Rev 21:1-4 (© NRSVCE)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

WORDS TO PRAY

Lord, we believe in your love and in your word and we want to give you our sufferings and our tears.

Aware of the Christ's ardent desire to save us, dispose us to surrender ourselves to the Father's love and to stay attentive to your word: Blessed are the afflicted, because they will be consoled. Help us allow ourselves to be consumed by the fire of your Spirit.

Next to Mary and in her presence, teach us to turn at all times toward your Son in trust and abandonment, so that we will find true consolation in you.