

Sacred Heart – St. Louis Parish

7 May 2020

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Easter

“O God, when you went forth before your people, marching with them and living among them, the earth trembled, heavens poured down rain, alleluia.”

(readings are from the Easter weekday)

Reading 1: Acts 13: 13-25

Psalm 67: **Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord**

Gospel: John 13: 16-20

Homily for Thursday of the Fourth Week of Easter

My brothers and sister in Christ. Have you ever wondered to yourself as you are listening or reading the gospel of John what he means when we come across the phrase: “amen, amen, I say to you?” As we encounter the gospel of John, this phrase is one that we see often, and this is the way that John uses to get us to pay attention. When we come across the use of the double amen, it is like an exclamation point or an arrow that alerts us to pay attention to what Jesus is about to say.

We encounter two of these double uses of amen in the gospel today. Think back to Holy Thursday, just after Jesus has washed the feet of his disciples, when Jesus says that no slave is greater than his

master. Toward the end of this gospel passage we encounter this again when he says "whoever receives the one that I send, receives me and whoever receives me also receives the one who sent me".

Both of these points are important, and we should take these points and spend some time with them. How do these words speak to us? One is obviously a challenge of how we are to live our lives. Making sure that we understand that we are all equal and no one is greater than another. No one is too good to take out the trash, wash dishes or wash someone else's feet.

The second phrase is one of comfort. It reminds us that when we have received and embraced the Father in heaven, we are also embracing Jesus. When we embrace Jesus, we are also embracing the Father. This reminds us of the unity that the Father and the Son share and that we too are a part of that unity.