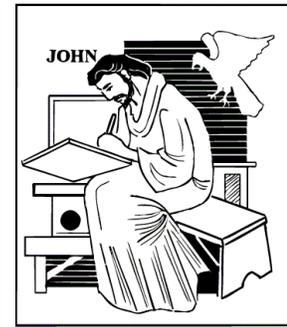
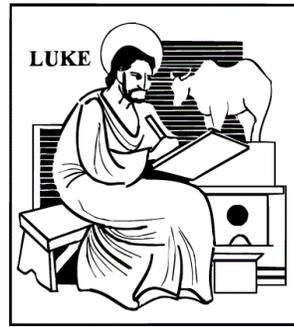
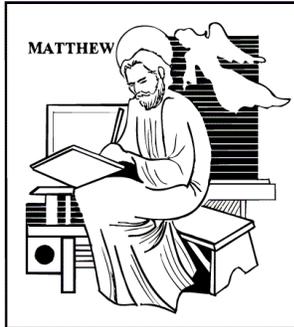


Breaking Open the Word



May 24, 2015 - Pentecost Sunday - Mass during the Day Lectionary: 63 Gospel Jn 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Spiritual Reflection: God gives the Apostles peace but with the gift of peace they are given a mission. Grace always comes with a task because all grace desires us to be our best self.

Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."

Spiritual Reflection: The Holy Spirit we learn will be our advocate or helper. Do we see God wanting what is best for us or do we see God as trying to hold us back?

Spiritual Questions

1. If you had been in Jesus' place and was standing in front of the men who deserted you in your time of need. What would your response be?
2. What gave the Apostles the courage to travel to the ends of the world?
3. How do the Holy Spirit and Peace relate to each other?
4. Whose sins are you forgiving?
5. What about the Sacrament of Reconciliation?