



"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17:1-13

It's time to desire!

After the feast of the Ascension there is an awkward void. We don't sing the Heavenly King prayer that begins all other church services during the year. We have stopped singing the Christ is Risen troparion. There is now this empty space, this silence that begins all our prayers, a void. Is it just an empty space, an awkward empty moment?

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." Isaiah 55:1

In this silent moment, as we begin to pray, is concentrated all the thirst of humanity, and of every particle of creation.

To be human is to be thirsty. Created matter also is thirsty. It exists to bear the Spirit. As Dumitru Staniloae reminds us "matter is openness to the Spirit".

This is the Spirit that we thirst for, not only for ourselves but for the whole creation.

Let us get in touch with this thirst that is deep in us. Let us learn to recognize this thirst in every person we meet. Let us understand that creation is thirsty.

Thirst for the Spirit that comes to those who are thirsty.

"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man thirsts, let him come unto Me, and drink." John 7:37 Let us long to become a spring of living water flowing out from us to all of creation.

St. Silouan, our patron saint, teaches us *"give your blood and receive the Holy Spirit"*. How do we give our blood? He says *"by praying for the whole world"*.

"We have conceived, O Lord, because of thy fear, and have been in pain, and have brought forth the breath of thy salvation, which we have wrought upon the earth" Isaiah 26:37-38

Come let us bring our thirst and the thirst of all where it can be assuaged, in the liturgy of the coming feast of Pentecost.

"I opened my mouth and I inhaled The Spirit," Psalm 119:132

(pRoberto)

St Ambrose - **On the mountain**

"Not everyone who prays climbs a mountain. (Let his prayer become sin) ... But he who prays well ... climbs the peak of love. But he who is troubled about the riches or honors does not ascend the mountain. He ascends who seeks God. He ascends who earnestly requests Divine help for his climb. ... "Search the gospel: Only the disciples ascended the mountain with the Lord. "

"But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves." (today's gospel)

On Friday, after reading the gospel, Elisha said she found today's gospel being very hopeful. It was because of the joy who will be fulfilled in us. It is the joy that comes when we hear the words of Christ

spoken to us. ... On Tuesday, L. made her presence felt all over the mission. When I asked Johan how the morning had been, he said it was very busy, maybe close to 150 people. As usual, he had to deal with people outside who are “impatient” at times. But that was not the problem. “I don’t know what to do with L. Too much joy with her”. He was not the only one who could not handle the joy. Other people said the same thing on Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday. L. is loud and speaks with intensity, but one thing everybody agrees on is that her joy is genuine and is pouring into the room. L. has good words about everybody she gets to know at the mission. “But the most I like Peter (one of the brothers). He is so quiet. I come at 6:00 am to meet the brothers. I really like them.” The brothers were puzzled too, if not shocked. They could not handle the joy either and they were looking for anybody around the room to save them. Normally, it is them who bring the joy in the room in the morning. Now their joy was overcome by a new one. L. moved in the neighbourhood 10 years ago, but she never really came inside. She was always happy passing by, greeting everybody aloud calling them by their names. “I should have come 10 years ago inside, she said. I did not know it was so good here. It is beautiful. I like the incense; can you smell it? And the people. Everybody is nice.” We don’t really know what made L. come inside this time, but it seems that she will keep coming. She has a lot of energy and has a hard time sitting down. She has the same energy when she works with brother Luke or when she listens to the reading of the gospel. “Please, can you read more to me?... Wow, did you hear that. That was amazing. Could you read from Luke? About forgiveness of sins. How we have to forgive those who abuse us. ... Like I have to forgive my brother”, she said laughing. L. is really listening to the gospel with attention and interest. Maybe some of her joy comes from here. She also puts things into practice. She notices things and she makes us attentive. On Tuesday, she heard it was Dylan’s birthday. “We have to sing to him “... which we did. With a fresh scone from the bakery and a candle and a present put together by br. Luke. Dylan’s face changed. He expected nothing to be prepared for his birthday on Tuesday. He would have celebrated it alone. The joy has dynamis and it changes people and things around. Are we ready for it? Jesus tells us we are. For the moment, we have a hard time handling L. Even so, her joy seems to move things around the mission.

“Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.” (today’s gospel)

At times we say that we are aware that God loves us. We see today how much. We, sinful people, are given to listen to the prayer of the Son to His Father. What is intimate between the Father and the Son is revealed to us, sinful people. Through His prayer, the Son reveals to the Father the love He shares with Him for us, sinful people. If the unity between the Father and the Son precedes the world, the opposite of that is our limited detachment with our own logismoi (evil thoughts within ourselves). The gospel reveals to us that the loneliness of our death does not escape the everlasting relationship and unity between the Father and the Son. The source of our existence is the relationship in unity between the Father and the Son. In our life we always desire this unity among us and with the Father. We continuously fail to attain and embrace the joy for each other in time permanently. Our gathering becomes destructive and brings about death. The unity of the Father and the Son is brought to us through the Holy Spirit, who gathers and heals the gathering around the One who is broken and distributed for the salvation of all. Through our freedom we move with the Spirit wherever the Spirit takes us until the communal body is healed and perfected through holiness, by the end of time.

Mission church collections of 1 Sunday : May 21 2023, Donations \$200, Candle collections \$33.25



Ascension in the Streets of Toronto

Summer 2022

By Velma

Velma would come rarely at the mission over the summer. We have not seen her maybe for one year. She was an elegant elderly woman who was a painter when she was younger. She lost the love for painting not having a clear purpose with it. She had adopted a surreal style in her paintings at the time. She started to paint again rediscovering the love for beauty through small things and simplicity. She thought maybe she could sell some of her paintings now, so

she would not have to go from drop-in to drop-in to food. Even though she loves the people she meets here.

She allowed me to take a picture of her painting called Ascension. She found a new painting technique: random splashes of black paint on the white paper, and looking for images and shapes to describe reality. "You don't have to do much. Maybe sometimes a line here and there to magnify the image". However, you need an eye for that. "The reality reveals itself to those who are willing to search for it".

Where do we see the Ascension of the Lord today?



Bridges Wednesday May 31,
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Walking the liturgy #3

**"The tradition of congregational
singing and the Psaltis at St.
John The Compassionate Mission"**

If you can make time to come on Wednesday for Bridges, we'll discover together the joy of singing as a community. Practically, we are learning how and why we sing together at St John's. Why we don't want to have a choir but we, as a community, have the desire to give a singing voice to all in prayer.

Let us not forget about this
week:

Saturday, June 3rd, 8:00 am
Divine Liturgy, Memorial
Service for the dead

Saturday evening
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Great Vigil of Pentecost



May 29 – June 4

Tuesday	8:30 am 7:30 pm	Morning Prayer Psalms Study – via zoom	Wednesday	4:00 pm 6:30 pm 8:00pm	Vespers Bridges Compline
Thursday	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	Friday	7:00 am 12:30pm 2:00pm	Orthros Noon Hours Jesus Prayer
Saturday Soul Saturday	8:00am 6pm-9:30pm	Divine Liturgy Great Vigil	Sunday Holy Pentecost	8:00 am 8:30 am 6:00pm	Small Hours Divine Liturgy Kneeling Vespers for Pentecost



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We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor" under
the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

St. Silouan Chapel, May 28, 2023

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