

Today is Wednesday the 22 May, in the Fifth Week of Easter.

Ex Cathedra, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore, sing Hanaq Pachap Kusikuynin, a hymn in the Quechua language of South America: "Bliss of heaven: a thousand times I adore you. Tree of uncountable fruits, hope of the peoples, pillar of the weak, listen to my prayer." As I listen, I place myself in the hands of God, the source of all life.. and fruitfulness.. and hope.

Today's reading is from the Gospel of John.

Five times in this passage, Jesus says: "Abide in me." But it's rooted in a promise: "Abide in me", he invites, "as I abide in you." This is not about being in the same place. It's about a mutual sharing. Jesus declares his sharing in our lives, and invites us to share in his. How do you react to this promise, and this invitation?

This gift, however, isn't forced on us. It is offered, again and again. What opportunities, then, will there be in the coming day to express your wish to "abide in him", to share Jesus's life? Who will you meet with whom you want to share a sense of Jesus's presence? In what situations will a Christ-like attitude on your part be necessary, and fruitful?

Listening to the passage again, hear particularly the invitation "Abide in me", recognising that Jesus makes this invitation because he already abides in you.

In the last few moments of this prayer, take time to tell God what you feel about Jesus's gift of himself to you. Ask God, perhaps, for what you feel will help you to respond more fully to this gift.