

Thursday, Second Week of Eastertide

John 3:31-36

In today's gospel reading, John the Baptist says of Jesus, *'He who comes from above is above others'*. For John the Baptist Jesus is the one who comes from above although he lives in the world. John is attempting to contrast Jesus with *'he who is born of the earth.'* Even though the one born of the earth can mean any of us John the Baptist primarily meant to contrast himself and his own testimony to Jesus and his testimony. He wants to point out that the testimony of Jesus is far more superior to his own testimony. Jesus' testimony is superior because he is from above and that he is the Word of God in human flesh. Unlike John the Baptist himself, Jesus testifies *"to what he has seen and heard"* through direct communication with his Father. In the opening verses of his gospel, John the evangelist declared, *'the Word became flesh and lived among us'*. We are therefore a privileged people who cannot be left in the dark about God. We can no longer keep wondering who God is and what God is like. In the language of this fourth gospel, it is Jesus, *'who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known'*. John the Baptist is urging us to accept the testimony of Jesus. He recognises that there are some who do not accept Our Lord's testimony. Yet there are some who do listen and who do accept what Jesus. When anyone fully accepts Christ's witness, he accepts that Jesus is truly from God and that God acted (and continues to act) through him for the establishment of the Kingdom and the salvation of the world.

According to today's gospel reading, God gives the Spirit to Jesus without reserve. God gave all to Jesus without reserve, and what Jesus received from God he has given to us, without reserve. However, the reserve surfaces from our receiving end. We struggle to empty ourselves sufficiently to receive all the Lord wants to give us. The greater our capacity to receive from the Lord's fullness, the greater will be our ability to give what we receive. As Jesus received all from God and gave what he received to us, so Jesus looks to us to receive all from him and to give what we receive to one another. We are to keep receiving from Jesus all he wishes to give us so that we too can witness to him before others.