April 10, 2016

If you are looking for some Easter reading, seek no further than John’s Gospel. St. John, unlike the other three Gospels, is not part of the rotation that changes each liturgical year. Rather, he is the one Evangelist heard at critical moments throughout the year. That is especially noticeable during the Easter season when John’s Gospel is proclaimed each Sunday.

I would also suggest that when feeding your personal prayer in Easter go to John. In particular, the famous Last Discourse section of chapters 14-17. Though placed at the Last Supper, this extended speech of Jesus to His disciples sounds much more like a post-Resurrection instruction. A prayerful lectio divina of the text will bear much fruit. That image, by the way, comes from Jesus’ words to His friends in the discourse.

It is impossible to exhaust the richness of that section of John’s Gospel, or sum it up easily. The opening line, though, does provide a key. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me (14:1). That sets the tone for all that follows. It is also the perfect expression of Easter. The Risen Lord says to us over and over: Fear not, I am with you. Trust in me.

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