

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, April 24, 2016*

YEAR C - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Lord is risen! Greetings to you all. We are continuing today our reading of Thunder: Perfect Mind, as well as the seasonal Johannine readings. You will also notice that we are continuing our use of the Mass of the 7 Seals. We mentioned a while back that we would be issuing recommendations for the usage of this liturgy. We now have a tentative recommended schedule of use:

Feast of St. John (Apostle) - 12/27

New Year's Day

Last Sunday after the Epiphany (Transfiguration)

From the 2nd Sunday of Easter through Pentecost (inclusive)

Feast of Holy Archangel Uriel - 6/21

Feast of St. John the Baptist - 6/24

Feast of Holy Archangel Michael - 9/29

Feast of All Saints - 11/1

From Advent to Pentecost this Mass should not be used except as recommended. During the season after Pentecost it may be used *ad libitum*. But remember that this is a supplementary Mass, and it is never required that it be performed; nor should it ever replace wholesale the Liturgy of the Pleromic Light. Keep in mind also that the dates we've given are the current recommendation and are subject to change.

Today I want to look at our Gospel reading from John. Jesus say here: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another." In between our philosophical discourses on Gnostic theology, there is no other topic that we've given more time to than that of Love. It is the principal unifying theme of the Gospel and the very foundation and bedrock of the New Covenant. It is the fundamental spiritual Truth that gives rise to and unites every other truth. It is the very essence of Unity and Truth.

It is very easy to pay lip service to this principle, especially in the midst of a homily. But it is quite another thing to make this principle manifest in the world around us through our thoughts, words, and actions. They say that actions speak louder than words, and they do. But our actions can only be perfect when they are in perfect harmony with our words and thoughts. As ecclesiastics we know that three conditions must be met to properly and effectively transmit a sacrament: matter, form, and intent. These correspond precisely to thought, word, and action. The intent is our thought; it is the basis for everything else. Without intent - proper thought - anything that follows will be empty of its vivifying power. Form refers to the proper use of words. Ritualistically, this is the proper words of consecration, etc. But in daily life this means speaking truly, from the heart. It means not voicing the passing emotional flare-ups. It means not simply saying what we think others want to hear. It means not merely parroting the ideals of others without critical examination and reflection. Speech is a sacred tool and it should be regarded as such, protected as such, and used as such. Finally, we have the matter, which indicates action upon the material world. When our actions are a perfect representation of our words and thoughts, then those thoughts will be perfectly manifest in the world.

Jesus gave us a single commandment. Let us take this to heart and make it the foundation, first of our thought process, extending then unto all our words and deeds. In this way His kingdom will reign.