“I tell you truly, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Jn.12:24

Reflection

Like very small seeds in the hand of the poor
Like the wheat that germinates in the darkness of the night
Your kingdom in our hand stirs our spirit
And carries us along the way of struggles and hopes

Your voice is our song, your call is the word
That beats in the burning heart of your people
Creators of the story, witnesses of your kingdom

Reading: Luke 6: 17, 20-26   The Beatitudes

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“I tell you truly, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Jn.12:24

Reading: Luke 6: 17, 20-26   The Beatitudes

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
    for yours is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you who are hungry now,
    for you will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
    for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when people hate you,
    and when they exclude you, revile you,
    and defame you on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,
    for surely your reward is great in heaven;
    for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.
But woe to you who are rich, 
   for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you who are full now, 
   for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who are laughing now, 
   for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, 
   for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Jesus came that all people may have life and life in abundance. So, if in Christian terms we speak of martyrdom, we must at the same time be conscious that holiness, self-giving, solidarity and justice are questions of life and death.

We could say that the spirituality of Sister Irene was the search for love, fraternity, of life, not martyrdom. The martyr doesn’t look for death but finds it.

God doesn’t call us to be martyrs but to be saints. God asks that we may care for life, all life.

Editorial in Signos, Lima, June 1991

Let us pause to reflect on how this reading speaks to us today.

Prayers of Intercession

We pray

+ That leaders of nations may act with justice and care for all their people…..
   All  God of Life draw us to yourself

+ For women, men and children who suffer and die in times of civil unrest….
   All  God of Life draw us to yourself

+ For all who suffer hunger and homelessness that people of faith may offer them hope…..
   All  God of Life draw us to yourself

+ That the Church may live and proclaim Jesus in a way that is coherent and all-embracing…..
   All  God of Life draw us to yourself

Invitation to add prayers
Prayer

Our Good God who delights in people and lives among us, grant that we may live in such a way that our hearts may dance for joy in your kingdom now and forever.
Amen

From 1Cor 13:1-8

Antiphon Faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Love is understanding
Love is service
Love is not jealous
nor does it look for evil

Love isn’t irritable
Love is never discourteous
Love is never selfish
Love is never unjust

Love blames no one
Love is kind
Love doesn’t rejoice in hurt
It only rejoices in truth

Love bears all, believes all
Love hopes for all
And is always faithful

Antiphon Faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The “Eye that Cries” is a labyrinth in Lima made up of stones, each commemorating the life of a person who was killed during the recent decades of terrorism and violence of the Shining Path and the Peru Government forces. Irene’s stone was written on by Sister Juanita Scari rsj.
We remember Irene as a dancer flowing with energy and joy.
Sing together

**Hymn   Lord of the dance**

I danced in the morning when the world was young
I danced in the moon, and the stars, and the sun
I came down from Heaven and I danced on the Earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth

Dance, then, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance said he

I danced for the Pharoah and the pharisees
They wouldn't dance, they wouldn't follow me
I danced for the fishermen James and John
They came with me so the dance went on

Dance, then, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance said he

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame
The holy people said it was a shame
They ripped me and they stripped me and they hung me high
Left me there on the cross to die

Dance, then, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance said he

I danced on a Friday when the world turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body; they thought I was gone
But I am the dance, and the dance goes on

Dance, then, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance said he
And I lead you all wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance said he.

Sydney Carter, 1967.