

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Remaining in Your Love

Almighty Father,
through your Son,
you have given us new life.
May we seek to remain in you
by yielding to your command
to love one another.

Grant that our hearts may be open
to meet the needs of others in our midst
so that we might truly call ourselves
your friends.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 5, 2024
Joy and Love



Today's readings: Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48; Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4; 1 John 4:7–10; John 15:9–17. The Gospel provides a sense of the immensity of God's love in the first sentences today. "As the Father loves me, so I also love you," Jesus tells the disciples. Imagine what that means. Jesus is saying that he loves his followers with the same love that the Father loves him. From these few words, we can begin to understand the communion of love to which we are invited through our baptism.

In the first reading, it becomes apparent that God reaches out to all to share his bountiful love. "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality," Peter explains, citing his rea-

son for meeting with the Gentile Cornelius. Peter well knew that it was unlawful for a Jew to visit a Gentile; however, Jesus had shown him another way. No one was to be considered profane or unclean. As he ministered to the Gentiles, Peter became a living testimony of God's love.

The reading from the First Letter of John explains that we are to love one another because "love is of God." As followers of Christ, we are to spread what is God's. The author of the letter notes that, by loving, we come to know God. Consider who you refrain from loving. Read over today's Scriptures several times this week to deepen your understanding that "God shows no partiality."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 6 Take Your Place

Jesus predicts a dark future for his followers when he says, “They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God.” Preceding that reading is a psalm of thanksgiving, directing that we remember that we belong to God. “We are his people, the flock he shepherds,” the psalm proclaims. Dispositions of trust and gratitude may have allowed Lydia, the dealer of cloth in Acts, to open her heart to preaching, seek baptism, and invite the disciples into her home. *Today’s readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a, 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

Tuesday, May 7 Ready Your Hearts

It is not surprising that the disciples grieve upon hearing that Jesus is leaving them. After all, they had spent years with Jesus, witnessing his preaching and healing. Since they had not yet experienced the Spirit, it might have been little comfort when Jesus explained, “For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you.” The Gospel today refers to the Spirit as the Advocate, and in the Nicene Creed, the Spirit is called “the Lord, the giver of life.” How does the Holy Spirit instill life in the Church? *Today’s readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; John 16:5–11.*

Wednesday, May 8 Go into the World

St. Paul and the other disciples acted as a Church on mission, traveling to spread the Good News. In today’s reading from Acts, St. Paul tells the Athenians that God “gives life and breath and everything.” As St. Paul preaches, he yields to the Spirit, who Jesus says in the Gospel will “guide you to all truth.” This Easter Time pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance. *Today’s readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

Thursday, May 9 Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter

“You will grieve but your grief will turn to joy,” Jesus tells the disciples before ascending to be with the Father. The disciples had no idea of what lay ahead so, of course, they were grieving the anticipated loss of their teacher. Can you imagine their joy when they discover that, as followers of Christ, they had a new life in Christ that demanded that they spread the Good News? *Today’s readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

Ascension of the Lord

In today’s Gospel, we hear of God’s yearning for all to be saved. Each baptized person has the same mission as the first disciples to proclaim the Gospel. Have you considered that doing so is part of your baptismal responsibility? *Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23; Mark 16:15–20.*

Friday, May 10 Focus on the Joy

Jesus likens the pain and suffering of the disciples to that of a woman in labor. Once the child is born, joy erases the pain. As the disciples anticipate Jesus’ departure, they are in pain; however, when they meet the Lord again, their joy will be eternal. As we hear today, no one will take that joy from them. *Today’s readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

Saturday, May 11 For Your Joy to Be Complete

“Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete,” Jesus tells the disciples. Usually, people request things that they think will bring them happiness, and sometimes only fleeting happiness. But Jesus points out that what the Father gives will bring joy. How has God been present during the joys in your life? What does it mean for your joy to be complete? *Today’s reading: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*

