

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive
our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion
these days of joy,
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Ac 8:5-8.14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
Philip went to a Samaritan town and
proclaimed the Christ to them. The people
united in welcoming the message Philip
preached, either because they had heard
of the miracles he worked or because they
saw them for themselves. There were, for
example, unclean spirits that came shrieking
out of many who were possessed, and
several paralytics and cripples were cured.
As a result there was great rejoicing in that
town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard
that Samaria had accepted the word of
God, they sent Peter and John to them, and
they went down there, and prayed for the
Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as
yet he had not come down on any of them:
they had only been baptised in the name
of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on
them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

2. ESP. PSALM

Psalms 65

Response:

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.
or

Alleluia!

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: "How tremendous your
deeds!" (R.)

2. "Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my
prayer
nor withhold his love for me. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 P 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.
Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and
always have your answer ready for people
who ask you the reason for the hope that
you all have. But give it with courtesy and
respect and with a clear conscience, so that
those who slander you when you are living
a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in
the accusations that they bring. And if it is
the will of God that you should suffer, it is better
to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.
Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was,
had died once for sins, died for the guilty,
to lead us to God. In the body he was put to
death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep
my word, and my Father will
love him, and we shall come to him."
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me you will keep my
commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer see
me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments
and keeps them
will be one who loves me
and anybody who loves me will be loved by
my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to
him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of
the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that, purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of
your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you
another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the
Resurrection of Christ,
increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this
paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this
saving food.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

21 MAY 2017

Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: White • Psalter week 2



Jesus promises the disciples that he will not abandon them when he departs, but will ask the Father to send the gift of the Paraclete or Advocate.

Throughout our reading, we find the theme of love, the attitude which will allow the disciples to keep Jesus' commandments. The Paraclete will be the Spirit which communicates truth, it will be the ongoing presence of God's self-revelation in the world.

However, there is another world which does not recognise Jesus and which has responded to his revealing of his message by rejecting it and him as well. In this sense the disciples are in a different world whose centre is Jesus. There is no account of an ascension as such in the Fourth Gospel, no depicting of a physical departure: for John, the Easter/Paschal Mystery all takes place on the cross. The Cross is the means of the lifting up (ascension) of Jesus, his death, and the place of his handing over the Spirit (Pentecost). What Jesus was to his disciples and the people of his day, the Paraclete is to the worshipping community today. The earthly Jesus is no longer present, but the living, exalted Jesus is. Those who have rejected Jesus ("the world") will not be aware of his presence, but those who have put their faith and trust in him will be. Jesus has spoken frequently in the gospel about the oneness of himself and the Father, and now he speaks of the relationship between himself and the believer in similar terms, and this will be one of the results of his departing from them now. The mark of this relationship is love, and a loving commitment to Jesus through keeping his commandments. ■

SAY

Reverence the Lord Christ in your heart
(1 Peter 3:15).

REFLECT

The gospel reading invites us to think about how Jesus is present to disciples today. In John's thought, this is through the presence of the Paraclete. In the bible, the Spirit of God is seen usually in terms of power: it is an enabling force which allows a person to carry out his or her appointed task. The Holy Spirit at Pentecost and throughout the Acts of the Apostles is depicted very much in this way. The presence of the Spirit in the Fourth Gospel is much more in the way of an indwelling: Jesus tells the disciples, you know him, he abides in you and he will be in you.

One of the key documents of the Second Vatican Council is the one on Divine Revelation and its title is "God's Word". It tells us that God's purpose in this self-revealing is to invite human beings into a relationship characterised by friendship. It is not a matter of the revealing of rules and regulations. This revelation is handed on in oral form, until it is committed to fixed written forms, and the handing on is what we call tradition. It is instructive that it is in connection with the Tradition of the Church that the Holy Spirit is most frequently mentioned. It is the Holy Spirit which enables the community to reflect on the Scriptures and to discern their meaning for today. ■

DO

Switch on an electrical appliance. Think about how dependent you are in your daily existence on an invisible power. We should rely on the Holy Spirit in a similar way to live a proper Christian life.



LEARN

The Tradition of the Church is what the community believes.

Customs such as liturgical forms are not part of the Tradition of the Church.

The title Paraclete really means legal assistant, advocate: it is the Johannine expression for the Holy Spirit.