

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

Acts 15:1-2.22-29

A reading from the Acts of Apostles.
Some men came down from Judaea and
taught the brothers, “Unless you have
yourselves circumcised in the tradition of
Moses you cannot be saved.” This led to
disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas
had had a long argument with these men
it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas
and others of the church should go up to
Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the
apostles and elders.
Then the apostles and elders decided
to choose delegates to send to Antioch
with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church
concurred with this. They chose Judas known
as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in
the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to
take with them:
“The apostles and elders, your brothers,
send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth
in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that
some of our members have disturbed you
with their demands and have unsettled your
minds. They acted without any authority from
us, and so we have decided unanimously to
elect delegates and to send them to you with
Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect
who have dedicated their lives to the name
of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we
are sending you Judas and Silas, who will
confirm by word of mouth what we have
written in this letter. It has been decided by

the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle
you with any burden beyond these essentials:
you are to abstain from food sacrificed to
idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled
animals and from fornication. Avoid these,
and you will do what is right. Farewell.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 66

Response:

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
or
Alleluia!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.
(R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

SECOND READING

Apoc 2 1:10-14.22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of
an enormous high mountain and showed me
Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from
God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory
of God and glittered like some precious jewel
of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were
of a great height, and had twelve gates; at
each of the twelve gates there was an angel,
and over the gates were written the names of
the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there
were three gates, on the north three gates,
on the south three gates, and on the west
three gates. The city walls stood on twelve
foundation stones, each one of which bore
the name of one of the twelve apostles of the
Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city
since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb
were themselves the temple, and the city did
not need the sun or the moon for light, since
it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the
Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

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

John 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my
words.

And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my
gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:
I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad
to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may
believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
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.

26 MAY 2019

Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



As we approach the end of the Easter season, the Gospel today looks toward the departure of Jesus and the sending of the Paraclete.

It seems that the disciples still do not fully understand the message of Jesus, as they are apparently reluctant to let go of Jesus. He promises two gifts: one is the Paraclete, the other is Jesus’ peace. The purpose of the Paraclete will be to teach the disciples, unfolding the meaning of what Jesus has taught them. The Paraclete will take Jesus’ place and keep alive the memory of Jesus among and within the disciples, those who knew Jesus personally and those who will come later.

The peace which Jesus mentions is his peace, not peace in the normal sense of the word. Persecution from outside and divisions within the community were a feature of the community from which the Fourth Gospel emerged. This peace comes from Jesus’ union with the Father and is connected with the gift of the Paraclete, or Spirit, who will continue Jesus’ presence among the disciples. Jesus’ leaving and the coming of the Spirit signal the beginning of a new era, and this should be a cause of joy, not sadness for the disciples. The return of Jesus to the Father will enable the coming of the Spirit to the disciples, and it is in this peace that the community will continue Jesus’ work of revealing the Father, despite opposition like that which Jesus experienced. ■

REFLECT

In the Bible, the Spirit of the Lord is often, if not usually, associated with *power*. The Spirit is bestowed on a particular person so that they can carry out their commission from the Lord. However, the purpose of the Spirit, or Paraclete, as presented in our Gospel reading today, is more that of helping the disciples to understand more fully the teachings of Jesus.

In the document on Divine Revelation issued by the Second Vatican Council, the Holy Spirit is mentioned most frequently in the chapter on Sacred Tradition. The Holy Spirit is the active agent in the transmitting of the faith from one generation to another. Tradition is presented as something unfolding, developing: it is not the static repetition of what has been said before in the manner and language in which it was previously taught. Nothing new is added, but our appreciation of its meaning develops and must be expressed in ways which contemporary people can understand. The meaning of words changes over time and if we have to explain that a word we are using signifies something different to that which the other person would naturally assume, then we are literally speaking another language and failing to communicate. Perhaps we need to believe more firmly that the Spirit is guiding the expressing of what we as a church believe and not be afraid of new ways of formulating our faith in language which makes sense to ourselves and our contemporaries. The truth is sacred: no one system of explaining the faith is absolutely the last word. ■

SAY

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

LEARN

The teaching of the church on divine revelation is presented in the document of Vatican II entitled *Dei Verbum*.

The word *Paraclete* refers to the Holy Spirit as Jesus’ personal presence in the disciples while Jesus is with the Father.

In the Fourth Gospel, the verb *to be troubled* occurs in the context of death.

Our understanding of the Word of God in the Scriptures develops: this is the function of the tradition of the church.

DO

Switch on the light. Think about how important electricity is to the running of your home. Reflect that this is how important the Holy Spirit is to the life of the church.

