

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, 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

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery
within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in
Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra
and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart
into the disciples, encouraging them to
persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience
many hardships' they said 'before we enter the
kingdom of God.' In each of these churches
they appointed elders, and with prayer and
fasting they commended them to the Lord in
whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached
Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at
Perga they went down to Attalia and from there
sailed for Antioch, where they had originally
been commended to the grace of God for the
work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church
and gave an account of all that God had done
with them, and how he had opened the door of
faith to the pagans.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 144 (145):8-13a

Response:

Response: I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King.

Or: Alleluia!

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. (R.)
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

Apoc 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the
first heaven and the first earth had disappeared
now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw
the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming
down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a
bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard
a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this
city? Here God lives among men. He will make
his home among them; they shall be his people,
and he will be their God; his name is God-with-
them. He will wipe away all tears from their
eyes; there will be no more death, and no more
mourning or sadness. The world of the past
has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne
spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation
new.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'I give you a new
commandment:
love one another, just as I have loved you.'
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:
'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

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,

(all bow during the next three lines)

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

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected
in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme
Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray,
O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly
mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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The friend who can be silent with us in a
moment of despair or confusion, who can stay
with us in an hour of grief and bereavement,
who can tolerate not knowing, not healing, not
curing: that is a friend who cares.

Henri Nouwen

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • 18th May 2025 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

JN: 13:31-33A, 34FF

Today's Gospel begins with the call of the disciples where the master addresses his pupils. There is a certain warmth or tenderness to this scene as Jesus tells them he is leaving a new commandment, one which he wants lived out through their actions after his death.

He speaks of love and extends this love to all people, without distinction. He has already shown this message in his story of the Good Samaritan. The kind of love Jesus talks about is a love for all. Secondly, this commandment is new in the ideal it strives for. Our love should be as he has loved us. This means we must love our enemies, without limits. ■

REFLECT

An American journalist, after watching Mother Teresa caring for a man with gangrene, remarked to her: 'I wouldn't do that for a million dollars.' Mother Teresa replied: 'Neither would I... but I do it for love of God.' Selfishness keeps us shut in, builds barriers, even walls, between us and others. What frees us is caring, caring for others, being friends, being sisters and brothers to them, being good neighbours. A doctor, who has shared some of the deepest moments in the lives of many patients, says that people facing death don't think about the degrees they've earned, the positions they've held, or how much wealth they've amassed. What really matters at the end is whom you have loved and who has loved you.

Love asks the best from us and brings out the best in us. Being loved gives us a surprising energy and courage. Love makes us fruitful, productive, strong and constant in doing good. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, famous for her work on the stages of dying, has written: 'Love is the flame that warms our soul, energises our spirit and supplies passion to our lives. It's our connection to God and to one another.'

Practicing love has the power to heal ourselves and others. To love is to heal, both those who receive and those who give it. To decide to love is to be fully open to life. It is choice and not just feeling. When we choose to be loving, caring, healing, helping, and forgiving persons, we grow towards what our life is meant to be. There's really no other way. So Jesus insists, very strongly: 'Love one another, as I have loved you.' ■

LEARN

'For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.'

(St. Therese of Lisieux)

SAY

'Whenever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.'

(Mark's Gospel)

DO

If you're a little out of practice in your prayer life, how about taking as little as 10 minutes a day to begin a conversation with God. If you are short on words, read from today's Gospel from John.

