

## Fifth Sunday of Easter c



**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.

'Love one another as I have loved you.' Of all the commandments Christ gave us, this is the most important. It includes all the others.

The only failure in the life of a Christian is the failure to love. Let us think about the people whom we find difficult to take into our hearts, and ask the Lord to help us to be more loving towards them. It is God who sets the example for us to follow.

Lord Jesus, you are kind and full of compassion. Lord, have mercy.

You are slow to anger and abounding in love. Christ, have mercy.

You do not treat us according to our sins. Lord, have mercy.

**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.**

*Let us pray:*

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, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 14:21-27

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.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 144

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

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/.**

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/.**

Yours is an everlasting kingdom,  
your rule lasts from age to age.

**R/.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Apocalypse 21:1-5

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" he said.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

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, every one will know that you are my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The 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.**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

*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.**

*Preface:*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,

but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously,  
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.  
By the oblation of his Body,  
he brought the sacrifices of old to fulfilment  
in the reality of the Cross  
and, by commending himself to you for our salvation,  
showed himself the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of sacrifice.  
Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,  
every land, every people exults in your praise  
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,  
sing together the unending hymn of your glory as they acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The mystery of faith. **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

*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.**

#### REFLECTION

Where love begins

It's easy to love at a distance,  
but not so easy to love at close quarters.  
It's easier to give some money to relieve famine in another continent  
than to relieve the loneliness of someone living next door.  
It's easy to love people who are far away,  
but not always easy to love those who are close at hand.  
Yet, these are the people Christ asks us to love.  
We must begin by loving the people near us.  
That is where our love must start.  
But, of course, it doesn't and shouldn't have to end there.

#### *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.**

#### *Final Blessing:*

The Lord be with you.  
May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Go forth, the Mass is ended alleluia.

**And with your spirit.**

**Amen.**

**Thanks be to God alleluia.**

Dear God, you love us with an everlasting love. All you ask of us is to love each other with the same kind of love. Help us to embrace change and celebrate the newness that comes with each day and each new opportunity to grow in faith. We thank you and praise you, now and forever. Amen.

Living God, we praise you once more for the good news of Easter, the triumphant message of resurrection ... new hope, new joy, new life!

We praise you for the truth at its heart: that your love could not be kept down, your purpose could not be defeated and your mercy could not be destroyed.

Teach us that what was true then is true now ... that nothing can stand in the way of your sovereign power and redeeming grace.

Assure us, then, even when faith seems to fly in the face of reason, to trust in you, confident that your will shall be done and your kingdom come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.