

Sixth Sunday of Easter ^A



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.** *Isaiah 48:20*

Christ says to us what he said to his apostles: 'If you love me, keep my commandments'. We can't truly call ourselves his disciples if we don't listen to his words and make an effort to live by them. We know we fail, and our lives are the poorer for that. We need the Lord's help to do better.

Lord, your words are a light for our path. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, those who belong to you listen to your voice. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Lord, you alone have the words of eternal life. Lord, have mercy.

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:

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:5-8.14-17

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 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 65:1-7. 16. 20

Response: **Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

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/.**

'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/.**

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/.**

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 from me. **R/.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1 Peter 3:15-18

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.

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

The Lord be with you.

John 14:15-21

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, Lord.

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.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, 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.

Offertory:

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

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.**

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

REFLECTION:

Spirit of Truth, Wisdom, Light, and Love, come into my heart and mind that I might be empowered to listen with love and speak the truth of justice with love. Let me stand in the fires of compassionate understanding and burn with the desire to surface your presence in the world. Let me take, receive, and integrate your spirit of truth. Gently, reverently, may I bask in the hope of resurrection - and share that hope with all who enter my life. Amen.

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.**

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you:

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Mass is ended: Go in peace, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia.

Lord, it's easy today to live on a surface level, and never go deeply into anything. So much work is mechanical and we don't need to apply our minds to it, and somehow we jog along not thinking of anything very much. The newspapers give little snippets of information, the TV and radio do the same, so we don't need to think very much except about keeping amused and superficially occupied. Did you create us for such a shallow way of living? I can see us becoming mindless objects not fearing or loving deeply at all! Help us to get out of this self-living before it is too late, and show us how to enjoy life and to live on more than one dimension. Lift us out of this superficiality and show us how to live fully, Lord!

The Sea Gull: It's a chilly day by the seaside, far too windy for comfort. But the gulls don't seem to mind the wind. In fact, they seem to enjoy it. I watch them flying about: they go with it, they go against it, they soar into the sky, they plunge back to earth. All the time they are using the wind, they are availing of its power. And I reflect on how we, are so easily blown off course by the winds of adversity. Lord, send us the Holy Spirit who will enable us to turn the hard and easy to our advantage, so that everything that happens to us may bear us along the road to your kingdom.