

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

5 MAY 2024

and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread
and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to
each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.

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

R. 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

P. 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.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-V OF EASTER

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: 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 MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by
divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are
those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 14: 15-16

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

P. 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.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy
Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE INCLUSIVENESS OF GOD

Our first reading from Acts today is an
edited story of the encounter of Peter
and Cornelius. It is worth reading the full
episode of Chapter 10. What we have is
enough to relate the momentous occasion
when Peter, a Jew, enters the house of
Cornelius, a Gentile. This is significant of
itself, laying aside any impropriety. More
than this, Peter declares that God shows
no partiality. It doesn't matter whether
Jew or Gentile, anyone who fears God and
does what is right is acceptable to God.
Simultaneously with Peter speaking, the
Holy Spirit came upon all the audience,
Jews and Gentiles alike.

In John's Gospel, Jesus begins: 'As the
Father has loved me, so I have loved
you, remain in my love.' This invitation
to abide or remain in God's love opens
the command to love one another which
is ever more poignant in light of the
inclusivity of God. In this passage Jesus
calls his disciples 'friends' and no longer
servants, indicating the closeness of
their relationship, their walking together
and their collaboration in the work of
Jesus. Yet we know even today there are
barriers or hurdles that Pope Francis also
acknowledges but urges us to find a way
forward as a Church. 'Abide in my love'
could be our mantra so the love of God
is enacted to everyone we meet. How can
we seek to be inclusive of all who seek
God? How do we develop our ecumenical
relationships and outreach to all those
whom God desires to be welcomed?

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I CALL YOU FRIENDS. We often refer to Jesus by honorific titles, such as Lord, but
do we also think of him, as he thinks of us, as a friend? The Talmud suggests that we
should do two things: acquire a teacher and choose a friend. In Jesus we have both
the best teacher and the best friend we could ever hope to have.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 48: 20

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

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us
acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. For we have sinned against you.

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R. And grant us your salvation.

P. May almighty God have mercy on
us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on
earth peace to people of good will. /
We praise you, / we bless 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.



SECOND READING Jn 4: 7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John
God is love.

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God
and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have
known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 15: 9-17

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

*No one can have greater love than to lay down
his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's
commandments

COLLECT

P. 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, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon
the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went
out to meet him, knelt at his feet and
prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up.
'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I
have now come to realise' he said 'is that God
does not have favourites, but that anybody of
any nationality who fears God and does what
is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy
Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish
believers who had accompanied Peter were
all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit
should be poured out on the pagans too,
since they could hear them speaking strange
languages and proclaiming the greatness of
God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone
refuse the water of baptism to these people,
now they have received the Holy Spirit just
as much as we have?' He then gave orders
for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus
Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay
on for some days.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PS Ps 97: 1-4. R. cf. v. 2
R. The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power. (or Alleluia!)

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has
worked wonders. / His right hand and his
holy arm / have brought salvation. R.
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; /
has shown his justice to the nations. / He
has remembered his truth and love / for the
house of Israel. R.
3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the
salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all
the earth, / ring out your joy. R.