

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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us.....

THE 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.



OPENING PRAYER

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 10:25-26. 34-35 . 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.'

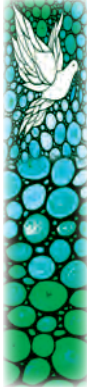
While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of 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. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97:1-4

R. The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations. 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)



SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St. John

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. 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 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 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. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 5th May 2024

The joy that Jesus promises is the joy that we find in the type of love which is his. This is the deepest desire of the human heart: Jesus gives meaning to all our hopes for loving and being loved in our lives with others.



NICENE CREED

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 for following 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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.

God of Promise

A promise is one of the most important words we hear ---- remember how often we reminded parents – you promised! Jesus makes many promises and one today is 'as the father loved me, I have loved you'.

That can be a sort of mantra, favourite word of God, for our lives. We need it always. At times when we think maybe God seems to have abandoned us.

But our faith is that then he is most present to us. Sometimes in prayer, sometimes in creation, often in the care and promise of each other.

In the care of each other, God is present. In your and my care for others, God is present.

The human heart wants consistent love. The love of marriage is a promise to be with someone in love forever. This is a huge promise to make, and we need God's help in keeping it. There is a promise in all sorts of other loves – friendship, religious community, ordinary family life of parents and children.

Jesus' promise – as the father loved me, I have loved you, and will love you always.

This is what the Holy spirit brings – not just truth and wisdom but the love of the Father and Son. the holy Spirit is the love of the Father for the Son Jesus. This then reaches out to the world.

Pope Francis recalls this: And what is the most important truth in life? That we are beloved children of God. We are God's beloved children: this is the most important truth, and the Spirit reminds us of this. God is a companion for life, a stable presence.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger