



6 May 2018

6th Sunday of Easter

Year B

"Remain in My Love and Bear Fruit"

Today, the Lord Jesus continues to develop last Sunday's idea of union with him as a condition to bear fruits of holiness in our lives. He does so by emphasizing that keeping his "Love Commandment" is the practical way to show the reality of our union with him and to bear fruit.

There is a life-giving relationship between union with Jesus and fruitfulness, fruitfulness and love, love and obedience to God's Commandments. The Eucharist we are about to celebrate is a manifestation of our union with the Lord and among ourselves. It is also a most effective way to strengthen such union whenever we proclaim God's Word, participate in shared prayer, and receive Holy Communion.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

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 –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –Aware of our many failings against the commandment of love of neighbor, let us ask the Lord's forgiveness and the grace to be more faithful in the future.
(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, through the

apostle St. John, you teach us that a person who does not love knows nothing of God. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you were sent by the Father that we might have life through you. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you taught us to love one another as you have loved us. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

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

All –**Amen!**

Gloria

All – 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 (Opening Prayer)

P –Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honor 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.

All—Amen!



1st Reading Acts 10:25-26.
34-35.44-48

The baptism of the Roman centurion Cornelius and all the members of his household was a landmark not only in their lives, but also in the history of the Church. By opening her doors to non-Jews, the Church began to be universal, that is: the home of all nations and cultures as Jesus intended her to be.

R —A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, “Get up. I myself am also a human being.”

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation, whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.”

While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

Then Peter responded, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?” He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

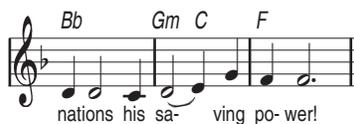
Responsorial Psalm Ps 98

R —*The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power!*

R. M. Velez



The Lord has re-vealed to the



nations his sa- ving po- wer!

* **Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds. His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.** **R.**

* **The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.** **R.**

* **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; break into song, sing praise.** **R.**

2nd Reading 1 Jn 4:7-10

Today, the apostle St. John reminds us of the essential relationship between authentic love and knowledge of God. He also underlines that Jesus is the greatest manifestation of the Father's love for us.

R —A proclamation from the First Letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God. Everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

“Whoever loves me will keep my word,” says the Lord, “and my Father will love him and we will come to him.”
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 15:9-17

By keeping Christ's commandments, the believers become an integral part of the chain of love which binds together the Father and Jesus, Jesus and his disciples, and the disciples among themselves.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love 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 joy may be in you and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give you.

This I command you: love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—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, (*bow*)* 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 of the Faithful

P —Our life has meaning only if it is characterized by love — a love patterned after the love of the Blessed Trinity for us. Aware of the preciousness of this gift, let us implore the Lord, saying:

All— **God of love, hear our prayer!**

C —For all Christians of all denominations: In their common love for Jesus may they find the inspiration to love one another as he commanded us and to seek the unity for which Jesus prayed, let us pray!

R.

C —For the Holy Father and all

the bishops: May they always be united by the bond of love as Jesus is united with the Father, let us pray!

R.

C —For all the peoples of the earth: May they understand that only through brotherly love patterned after the example of Christ can they experience genuine progress and lasting peace, let us pray!

R.

C —For our community and each of its members: May we preserve and increase the atmosphere of fraternal love by overcoming selfishness and all forms of dishonesty, let us pray!

R.

C —For all the faithful who celebrate the Flores de Mayo in honor of Mary Most Holy: May they imitate the sincerity and purity of our Blessed Mother's love for all, let us pray!

R.

C —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)

Let us pray!

R.

P —Lord Jesus, may all our actions be done out of love and with love, and thereby make present on earth the love that binds you to the Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—**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.

All—Amen!

Preface of Easter V

P —The Lord be with you!

All—**And with your spirit!**

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—**We lift them up to the Lord!**

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—**It is right and just!**

P —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 praise you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

By the oblation of his Body, he brought the sacrifices of old to fulfillment 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:

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!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!**

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

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

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)**

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

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.
All–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

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

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.
All–Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.
All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*
Through the resurrection of His Son, God has redeemed you and made you His children. May He fill you with joy.

All–Amen!

P –The Redeemer has given you lasting freedom. May you inherit his everlasting life.

All–Amen!

P –By faith you rose with Jesus in baptism. May your lives be holy, so that you will be united with him for ever.

All–Amen!

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

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All–Thanks be to God!



Loving As Christ Does

There is in us an instinctive selfishness – an unmistakable sign of the deep wound inflicted on all the descendants of Adam by original sin. It is a wound continuously kept open by all subsequent sins. Because of this, we often feel tempted to become aggressive, carried away as we are by pride and other lower passions. Some see more easily in others the competitor, the rival and even the enemy, rather than the brother or sister to be appreciated and loved.

Clearly, **a good deal of the “old man” still survives in us**, alongside with the positive aspirations which are the fruit of a sound upbringing, a helpful environment, and especially the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.

Unlike us, the whole of Christ’s life was characterized by LOVE; a love patterned after that of the Father (see *Jn 15:9 and 1 Jn 4:9-10*), and which reached its highest manifestation on the cross, when he died, “the just for the unjust” (*1 Pt 3:18*), as a sacrificial offering for our sins. (See *1 Jn 4:10*.)

To all his followers – to us – he enjoined only one thing: **“Love one another as I have loved you”** (*Jn 15:12*). **Our love of neighbor, then, to be genuine, has got to be Christ-like:** i.e., rooted in the Father’s love, which is boundless, unconditional, total, ready even for the supreme sacrifice, for **“there is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”** (*Jn 15:13*).

This is the kind of love that unites us – through Jesus – with both God the Father and the Holy Spirit and our neighbor. **This is the kind of love that bears fruits of compassion, forgiveness, solidarity, respect, affirmation, comfort, joy, and peace.** Each of us knows how difficult it is to love in such a manner and at all times.

By constantly doing our best to overcome selfishness, aggressiveness, and greed through our loving attitudes, words, and actions, we will grow in the awareness that there is something wonderful created in us by God’s grace. **We are “new men/women,” recreated in God’s image, thanks to the crucified and risen Christ.** (See *Eph 4:24*.)

Only then will our behavior become a living proof of the reality and universal effect of the resurrection of Christ. **Through our own and our neighbor’s love, we shall experience that the “newness of life” brought by Jesus is not just a pious aspiration but a wonderful REALITY.** We will also see that the Resurrection is not just an event of the past that concerns Jesus alone, but an ever-present power which re-creates every human being from within, transforming him/her from a weak sinner into a strong child of God who lives by the commandment of brotherly/sisterly love.



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