



26 May 2019

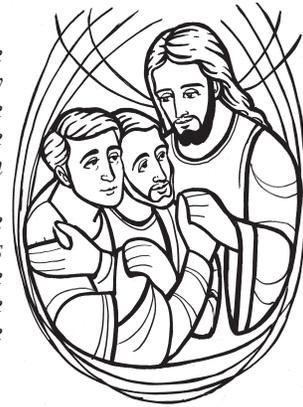
6th Sunday of Easter

Year C

The Love-Filled Presence That Transforms Us

The thought of an imminent separation from a person we love fills us with sadness. So it was with the disciples, after they learned from Jesus that soon they would not be able to see him any longer. But the Lord reassured them that LOVE would make up for the lack of his visible presence and would fill their lives with peace and strength.

After two thousand years, we know how true Jesus' words are. He is always present in the Church, his Mystical Body. In each of us, His presence becomes particularly real when we celebrate and receive the Eucharist, as we are about to do now. Let us open our hearts to receive in him the love of the Blessed Trinity, and to reciprocate it with the homage of our loving faithfulness.



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

All – And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P – Gathered together as God's family, like the apostles at the Last Supper, let us realize how much we need the Lord's forgiveness and peace. *(Pause)*

P – Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we have been a cause of divisions in the

community. Lord, have mercy!

All – Lord, have mercy!

P – Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we have failed to show our love through appropriate actions. Christ, have mercy!

All – Christ, have mercy!

P – Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we have not been instruments of your peace. 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!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Acts 15:1-2.22-29*

Even within the Church, life is not always smooth sailing. There may arise dissensions even among well-meaning members. The episode we are about to hear proclaimed shows us how the early Church solved such problems.

R –A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.” Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question.

The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them: “The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number who went out without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth: ‘It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat

sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.’”

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 67*

R –O God, let all the nations praise you!

R. M. Velez

O God, let all the na-tions
praise you!

* May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation. **R.**

* May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide. **R.**

* May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **R.**

2nd Reading *Rv 21:10-14.22-23*

The “New Jerusalem” seen by John in today’s vision is the Church. Resting on the foundation of the Apostles, she is the new people of God.

R –A proclamation from the Book of Revelation

The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of

the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west.

The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

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 14:23-29*

Love for Jesus and faithfulness to him are the conditions for the fulfillment of his promise that he and the Father will make their dwelling place in his disciples, and that he will send them the Holy Spirit.

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, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. Yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the

GLOSSARY: • **Silas:** A leading man of the Christian community of Jerusalem. He was chosen by Paul as his companion in his second journey. • **Paraclete:** A title of the Holy Spirit. This word means “Helper” and “Intercessor.” Jesus promises “another Paraclete” because he is the first Paraclete, i.e., the first one who stands by us to help us and intercede for us.

world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."

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 –Aware that peace is a gift

from God, as much as it is the fruit of human efforts and good will, let us implore this precious gift by saying:

All—Lord Jesus, grant us your peace!

C –For the Church, the Body of Christ: May she be an effective agent of reconciliation and sincere cooperation among all peoples. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Holy Father, our bishops, and priests: May they be Christ's loving presence in our world plagued by selfishness and indifference. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the nations ravaged by war of whatever type: May their leaders realize the futility of trying to solve contrasting views by fighting, and start honest negotiations for the good of all concerned. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the families divided by jealousy and conflicting interests: May all their members realize that only in mutual forgiveness can they preserve the precious treasure of peace. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For each one of us and those dear to us: May be instruments of Christ's peace, as we do our best to live in full the demands of the Gospel. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all registered voters: May they elect wise, capable, and upright leaders. Let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. *(Pause)* Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord Jesus, make us realize that only by keeping your word can we become instruments of your peace of the Kingdom where you live and reign for ever and ever. **All—Amen!**



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 to be 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 . . .

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

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



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 –May you become instruments of unity and cooperation in your community.

All—Amen!

P –May you always show your love for the Lord by keeping His commandments.

All—Amen!

P –May your hearts be always docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P –And may the blessing of almighty God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen!

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

All—Thanks be to God!

How to Enjoy A Foretaste of Heaven

by Jess P. Balon

It is a matter of consistency — **those who claim to believe in Christ and love him have to prove it through their actions.**

Jesus is not satisfied with verbal protestations of love and faithfulness. He wants action. Already at the beginning of his public life, he had warned his disciples, “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who DO the will of my Father” (Mt 7:21). Later on, he proclaimed that he considers as his closest relative whoever DOES God’s will. (See Mk 3:35.)

In his discourse at the Last Supper, the test of love is even more personal: “Anyone who loves me will be true to my word” (Jn 14:23). Conversely, failure to be true to his word signifies a lack of love for him. (See v. 24.)

To be true to Jesus’ word means to take it as one’s own highest inspiration in life; and to live by it, no matter what the cost. For His part, **God will bless with His continuous presence the believers who have learned how to live by the word of Christ.** Then their lives will be characterized by a constant **communion with the Father, the Son, and the Spirit of Love.**

They will enjoy the essence of heaven, already in this life.

This will be just a foretaste, of course, since the fullness of heaven lies beyond the many limitations of our earthly life. But it will be a real foretaste, nonetheless, which fills the soul of the “genuine believer” with divine splendor, insight, and peace. It will be the splendor coming from the glory of the Father. (See Rv 21:23.) It will be the insight deriving from the presence of the Spirit. (See Jn 14:26.) It will be the peace produced in our hearts by the self-gift of the Son. (See Jn 14:27.)

All this spells a unique dignity for every human being. Man is great on account of his achievements in all fields. But **every human being is especially great because he/she can be the temple of the Blessed Trinity already in this life.** The condition to actualize this potential is threefold, as it is spelled out by Jesus himself:

- * to open one’s heart to him in humble faith,
- * to love him tenderly, and
- * to be true to his word.

Then heaven dawns on earth and **the hearts of human beings become the most precious shrines in which Father, Son, and Spirit love to dwell.**



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