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.**

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.**

COLLECT

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.
Amen.

FIRST READING — Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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 them 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.

PSALM — Psalm 65 (66):1-7, 16, 20

Response:

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.
Or **Alleluia!**

1. 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.)

2. "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.)**

3. 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.)**

4. 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 for me. **(R.)**

SECOND READING — 1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

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.

Alternative SECOND READING 1 Pet 4:13-16

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 — Jn 14:15-21 (Alternative John 17:1-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**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 during the next 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.**

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**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

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.

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Redemptorist Communications

Sunday Message

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 10 May 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2

Today's Gospel is taken from Jesus' farewell to his disciples. As a farewell between friends who have spent years in each other's company, it has an especially intimate tone. It touches on four themes that were common in ancient farewell discourses.

The one who is departing usually asks those who will be left behind to guard their legacy. Jesus' legacy to his disciples is the teaching he has left them, his commandments, and so today's Gospel begins with a plea to keep the commandments.

The second theme is how those left behind will keep that legacy. We sometimes say that a group of people, such as the members of a religious order, have kept their founder's spirit alive. In the case of Jesus, this is even more true. The spirit he leaves them is not just good memories that will inspire them. The Spirit of Jesus will remain with them as a new form of presence. John calls this form of Jesus' presence the Paraclete. This is an unusual word we find only in the writings of John. It is not easy to find an exact English equivalent for it, so it is sometimes translated as 'advocate' or 'comforter.' The Greek word means literally someone you call to your aid. It could be used as a legal term for the lawyer of the accused ('advocate' in that sense) or for a friend who was prepared to give evidence on his behalf, a sort of character witness. It could also be used for someone who brought consolation or comfort to those who were downhearted. John probably intends all these meanings at once.

The Spirit that Jesus gives his followers will never desert them. We should keep in mind that the first readers of the Gospel lived in a hostile world where their faith might be put to the ultimate test by arrest, imprisonment and martyrdom. For many of them, the ordeal of appearing in a public court to give a defence of their faith must have been a nerve-wracking possibility. What were they going to say, especially if they were not used to speaking publicly? Jesus assures them they will not be left alone: the Spirit of Truth will be their constant companion. Like the word of Jesus, the Paraclete will abide with them.

The third theme is Jesus' assurance to his own that he will not leave them orphans. Even though the world believes he has died, his risen presence will remain with them, more mysterious indeed, but no less real by not being visible to the eye. The eye of faith will be able to discern the presence of the risen one and will know that his departure to the Father is only a temporary arrangement.

The fourth theme is that the revelation of Jesus has not ceased because he is no longer there. The future will bring new challenges but if they continue to remain united with Jesus and through him to the Father, he will continue to reveal himself to them in many new ways. ■

LEARN

The Christian is one who does God's will

Love is at the heart of the Christian life

God will never abandon us

DO

The Holy Spirit is the holy breath of God. As you breathe in and out, try to imagine your breath as the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, filling you with life every minute of the day.

SAY

"Lord, I know you are with me.
Help me to be aware of your presence at all times. Amen."

REFLECT

Towards the end of her life, my mother would often state that she always knew she was loved, that she had been surrounded by love throughout her 90 years. She appreciated just how fortunate she was.

To experience that kind of love is a very great blessing. Thank God, most of us have experienced the love of people close to us; we know what it is like to give and receive love.

But there are many whose experience is very different - people who have been abandoned, neglected, or taken for granted, people who have experienced the cold hand of rejection rather than the warm embrace of love and affection.

After the collapse of the Ceausescu regime in Romania in 1989, aid workers discovered orphanages in which thousands of children and teenagers were kept in appalling conditions. They were malnourished, dressed in rags and locked in cages or rooms for hours on end. Many found it difficult to communicate and were suffering from what psychologists call 'skin hunger.' They lacked warm human touch. They didn't know what it was like to be kissed, embraced or held close. They didn't know what it's like to be loved. These orphans lacked the essential requirements to develop into healthy, loving, lovable human beings. They had been treated horribly.

There's nothing worse than the feeling of being abandoned, forgotten and alone.

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that we will never be abandoned, forgotten and alone. "I will not leave you orphans," he declares. "I will come back to you."

He will send the Holy Spirit to be our help and guide. It's a statement of the profound love he and his Father have for all of us. We are loved so much they will never abandon us. No matter what difficulties we face, we can be certain we are not orphans. We are children of a loving God. ■

PRAY

Pray for those who feel lost, abandoned or unloved, that they may know that God is with them.