

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Flow through Us

Generous God,
you pour your infinite love
upon the whole world.
Thank you for infusing every cell
of our bodies
and every seed of creation with your
Holy Spirit.

Open our eyes to recognize this gift
of love

flowing through our lives.

May your unbreakable bond of love
propel us to act with mercy,
kindness, and compassion
toward all those in need of your
unconditional grace.

Through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Love Eternal



Today's readings: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Psalm 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21. The Gospel readings of the Easter season persistently invite us to remain close to the risen Christ in love. This love is born in trust that the Lord is with us for all time in the form of the Holy Spirit. He made that promise to the disciples in the upper room before he suffered and died. He repeated the promise before he ascended to heaven. And he makes that promise to us today.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit entwine us in an unbreakable bond of love. Binding us together, this love makes us one in faith. This love creates and sustains life and glorifies the earth with beauty. This love inspires us to clothe

the naked, feed the hungry, and bring others to faith. This love reveals itself through a mother's gift of life, protection, care, and devotion. This love welcomes us into the world at our birth and draws us to the Father when we take our last breath. This love is with us and in us for every breath we take during our earthly life, in every relationship, in every twist and turn of our journey.

The invitation to love is always present. It courses through every cell of our body and sustains every breath we take. Our response to this great gift is to receive love with open hearts, allow it to guide our walk through life, and share it with others.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 15

Lydia's Example

Trailblazer Lydia sells high-end purple fabric, listens to Paul's witness with an open heart, and undergoes a conversion. She responds to Paul with Christian hospitality, inviting his companions and him to stay at her home. Lydia paves the way for women business leaders across all generations to live faithful and generous lives. *Today's readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

Tuesday, May 16

John 16

Chapter 16 of John's Gospel is proclaimed passage by passage this week. During the Last Supper, Jesus speaks at length to his disciples just before he is arrested, urgently trying to convey the depth of his love for them. Jesus promises his disciples that they will never be alone, that he will send an Advocate (the Holy Spirit) as protector and guide, and that they will be equipped to fulfill their mission. *Today's readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; John 16:5–11.*

Wednesday, May 17

Hallelujah!

As Pentecost draws near some of the psalms we pray begin with "Hallelujah!" These psalms from the end of the psalter give praise and glory to God with full heart and voice. Psalm 148 leads our prayer imagination through all the wonders of creation. Bring your Bible outside and read from it aloud. Appreciate the wonder of God's creation all around you. *Today's readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

Thursday, May 18

Ascension of the Lord

Jesus' final words to his disciples before ascending to heaven are direct: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

Our mission is to draw others to a life of committed faith within the Church community. Jesus promises that he is with us in all that we do in service to his name. Take time in prayer to contemplate the truth that Jesus empowers us with as he accompanies us. *Today's readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20.*

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter Faith Works

The reading from Acts provides a small detail about St. Paul's life as a missionary disciple. In the midst of his efforts to grow the Christian community, St. Paul continued to work as a tentmaker. Like all of us, he needed to earn a living to provide the basic necessities. This apostle exemplified the balance of work and faith in the life of a committed disciple. *Today's readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

Friday, May 19

Take Heart

Jesus continues to prepare his disciples for the shock of loss that is to come. In our lives, too, we face loss as we keep vigil with a dying loved one and watch older generations decline in body and mind. We know the time is coming when people we love will pass from earthly life to heaven. But when anticipated death arrives, shock and grief are still felt. Jesus promised his disciples that grief will be transformed to joy. Take heart, grief is a process. Jesus walks with us. *Today's readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

Saturday, May 20

Ask and You Will Receive

Jesus adamantly encourages us to ask God for what we need and assures us that God hears our prayers. When it seems that our prayers go unanswered, remember that God holds the long view of our lives, giving us what we truly need. Have faith in the big picture. Know that God desires to be close to us and wills the best for us. *Today's readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*

