

22 MAY 2022 Sunday Message

THE WORD

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 15:1-2, 22-29

A reading from the Acts of Apostles.
Some men came down from Judaea and
taught the brothers, "Unless you have
yourselves circumcised in the tradition of
Moses you cannot be saved." This led to
disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas
had had a long argument with these men
it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas
and others of the church should go up to
Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the
apostles and elders.
Then the apostles and elders decided
to choose delegates to send to Antioch
with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church
concurred with this. They chose Judas known
as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in
the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to
take with them:
"The apostles and elders, your brothers,
send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth
in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that
some of our members have disturbed you
with their demands and have unsettled your
minds. They acted without any authority from
us, and so we have decided unanimously to
elect delegates and to send them to you with
Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect
who have dedicated their lives to the name
of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we
are sending you Judas and Silas, who will
confirm by word of mouth what we have
written in this letter. It has been decided by

the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle
you with any burden beyond these essentials:
you are to abstain from food sacrificed to
idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled
animals and from fornication. Avoid these,
and you will do what is right. Farewell."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalms 66

Response:

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
or
Alleluia!

- O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
- Let the nations be glad and exult
for your rule the world with justice.
With fairness your rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
- Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

SECOND READING Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of
an enormous high mountain and showed me
Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from
God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory
of God and glittered like some precious jewel
of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were
of a great height, and had twelve gates; at
each of the twelve gates there was an angel,
and over the gates were written the names of
the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there
were three gates, on the north three gates,
on the south three gates, and on the west
three gates. The city walls stood on twelve
foundation stones, each one of which bore
the name of one of the twelve apostles of the
Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city
since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb
were themselves the temple, and the city did
not need the sun or the moon for light, since
it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the
Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

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 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my
words.

And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my
gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:
I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad
to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may
believe."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
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.

A FAREWELL GIFT

(JOHN 14:23-29)



As Eastertide draws near to its close, our Gospel reading today introduces the theme of Jesus' departure, his return to the Father.

But the disciples will receive two gifts, distinct but related. First, the Paraclete will come from the Father and will continue Jesus' mission of teaching the disciples, leading them into an ever-deepening appreciation of his message as they remember all that Jesus has said to them. The Paraclete will maintain Jesus' presence among the disciples. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will be the second Paraclete, just as Jesus was the first, so that might help us to understand the role of the Spirit once Jesus is no longer physically present.

The second gift is that of peace, but it is Jesus' peace, something that the world cannot match. It is connected with the gift of the Spirit, the Paraclete, and is from God. It is not the absence of strife in human relations, but rooted in the Spirit of truth, and Jesus goes on to talk about how the disciples should not be distressed at his leaving them, as he is going back to the Father, an idea which we find only in the fourth Gospel. Jesus' departure may be marked by violence and malice on the part of his opponents, but he accepts this as his way of returning the Father's love for him. This should not be a cause of fear for the disciples, but rather one of joy. ■

REFLECT

The Easter event is not simply about the Resurrection of Jesus: the final act of the Paschal mystery is the conferring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. In our Gospel reading today, we are invited to look forward to the consequence of Jesus' going back to the Father, which will be the giving of the Holy Spirit who will continue Jesus' presence among us and within us.

But we will not benefit from this gift unless we are open to the Holy Spirit and prepared to allow the Paraclete to influence our thoughts and actions. The peace – *shalom* – which Jesus promises flows from Jesus' union with the Father and our union with Jesus. The gift of peace was associated in the Hebrew scriptures with the Messiah.

Jesus is not promising a trouble-free existence for his followers (then or now) but rather a rooted way of being which can cope with the troubles which arise in human life. "Peace" in the Hebrew sense is more a matter of total well-being, of having a firm anchor of faith within ourselves which helps us face the problems which we encounter. This is one of the reasons for the giving of the Holy Spirit, the other Paraclete. But the Spirit can only function in our lives if we are open to the Spirit. Soon we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus; we might ask ourselves in the next few days how we appreciate the ongoing presence of Jesus with us and what that means. ■

LEARN

The Easter mystery includes the events surrounding the Resurrection of Jesus, the Ascension and Pentecost.

The giving of the Spirit is the fulfilment of Jesus' promise to his disciples.

The word "Advocate" in today's reading is an alternative to the term Paraclete.

SAY

Abba, Father, send your
Spirit, Glory, Jesus
Christ
(Ginny Vissing)

DO

Try invoking the Holy Spirit the next time you are faced with a difficult situation and see what happens.

