

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Always Looking Out for Us

God our Father,  
you have called us from creation to be  
with you,  
you have promised us life everlasting  
and eternal joy in the Kingdom of Heaven.  
You have given us your Son to lead us  
to you,  
and have prepared a dwelling place for us  
if we but follow him.

May we know your truth,  
which will draw us closer to you;  
May we live your life of love and joy  
by serving others and responding  
to their needs;  
May we go where you lead us,  
trusting in your ways and in the sure and  
certain hope  
of life everlasting at the heavenly dwelling  
place you have prepared for us.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May 14, 2017

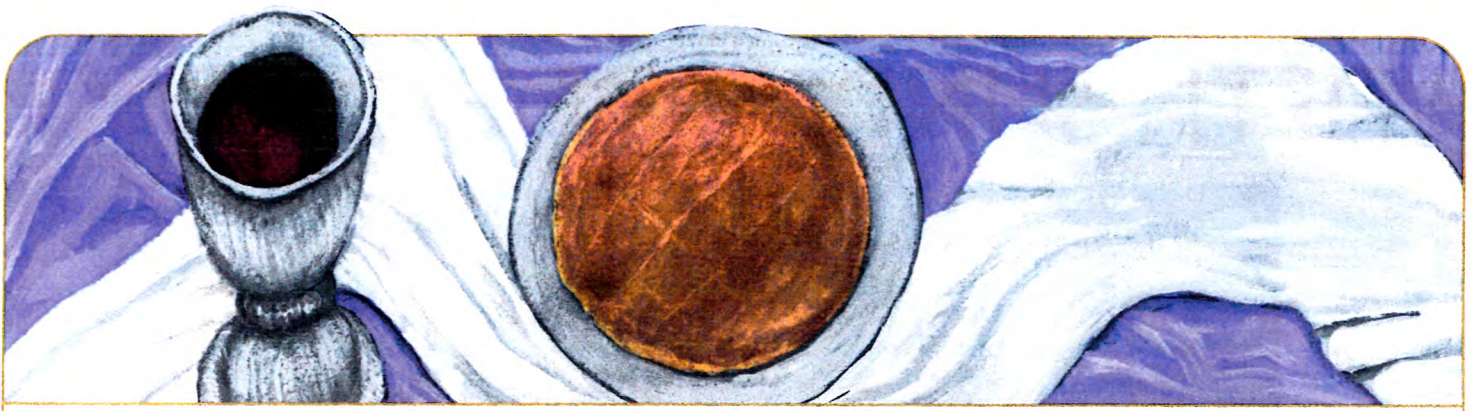
## The Father Dwells in Me

*Today's Readings: Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12.* The Apostles are confused today as Jesus tells them that he will go to prepare a place for them. Thomas questions, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" When Jesus says that he is the way, the truth, and the life, Philip tells Jesus to show them the Father. We can understand why the Apostles felt uneasy, for we often want exact directions. Just as the Apostles were unsure of going by their instincts to follow God, we sometimes are unsure of the path that Jesus has shown us. Jesus is preparing the Apostles for when he will leave them. He lets them know the path to the Father is

simple: *I am the way, the truth, and the life.* Only by what we already know of you, Jesus, can we find the Father.

If we know Jesus, then we know the Father. The first lesson of the Trinity is that God is one God. Knowing God is knowing the Father, the Son, and the Spirit as one. No one understands the Father except through understanding Jesus, the Son, the Christ. The way to the Father is through the Son. The truth of God is knowing those truths we have heard and lived and enacted with Jesus in the Gospel. Life in God is the fullness of life through creation, Baptism, and resurrection. If we are to know God, we must be willing to follow him, trust in him, and do the same good works that reveal him.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, May 15**

### St. Isidore

St. Isidore is the patron saint of farmers, and in the United States, the patron of the Rural Life Conference. The gardeners among us can see in this saint someone who also felt blessed to be able to put their hands in the dirt and watch something small grow. Whether or not we have the time and space to garden, we might want to take a few minutes to consider the work that goes into bringing food to the table. *Today's Readings: Acts 14:5–18; Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 15–16; John 14:21–26.*

**Tuesday, May 16**

### Open the Door of Faith

The account from the Acts of the Apostles today tells of persistence through suffering. Paul spread the Christian faith through several countries, not even pausing to complain about being persecuted. Instead, he insisted on welcoming Gentiles into the Church: opening the door of faith to them. His writings show that he carried Christ's peace with him. His accounts, too, show that he was undaunted and proceeded as Christ said in today's Gospel: Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid. *Today's Readings: Acts 14:19–28; Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21; John 14:27–31a.*

**Wednesday, May 17**

### I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches

The image of the vine and the branches portrays our intimate relationship to Jesus and to one another. The vine will only continue to grow if we accept the nourishment of the Father: love, mercy, and support. The image of the vine is also one of the Church, which can only continue to grow through the same love, mercy, and support of the entire community. *Today's Readings: Acts 15:1–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4ab, 4cd–5; John 15:1–8.*

**Thursday, May 18**

### Remain in God's Love

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." Those words from today's Gospel sound simple, but we still stumble and fall, especially when we consider ourselves inadequate. Today, consider how God's love is a gift and how Christ was willing to sacrifice self for the good of others. How do you translate that into your world today? What can you do to give God's love, thereby remaining within his loving embrace? *Today's Readings: Acts 15:7–21; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 10; John 15:9–11.*

**Friday, May 19**

### Pass It On

Both readings today describe handing on the faith. From Acts, we have a description of how Paul's letters were read in the assembly of the faithful. We continue to hand on the faith of the earliest Christians through their written testimony. The Gospel, though, has an even stronger dictate: love one another as I have loved you. There is no better definition of how to live as Christians than to do just that. *Today's Readings: Acts 15:22–31; Psalm 57:8–9, 10, 12; John 15:12–17.*

**Saturday, May 20**

### St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

A powerful Franciscan preacher, Bernardine (d. 1444) attracted thousands to his open-air preaching. His greatest achievement was spreading the Holy Name of Jesus through a large emblem he carried with him, emblazoned with IHS. These letters, the first three Greek letters of the name Jesus, became as familiar and popular as any present day logo. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:1–10; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 5; John 15:18–21.*

