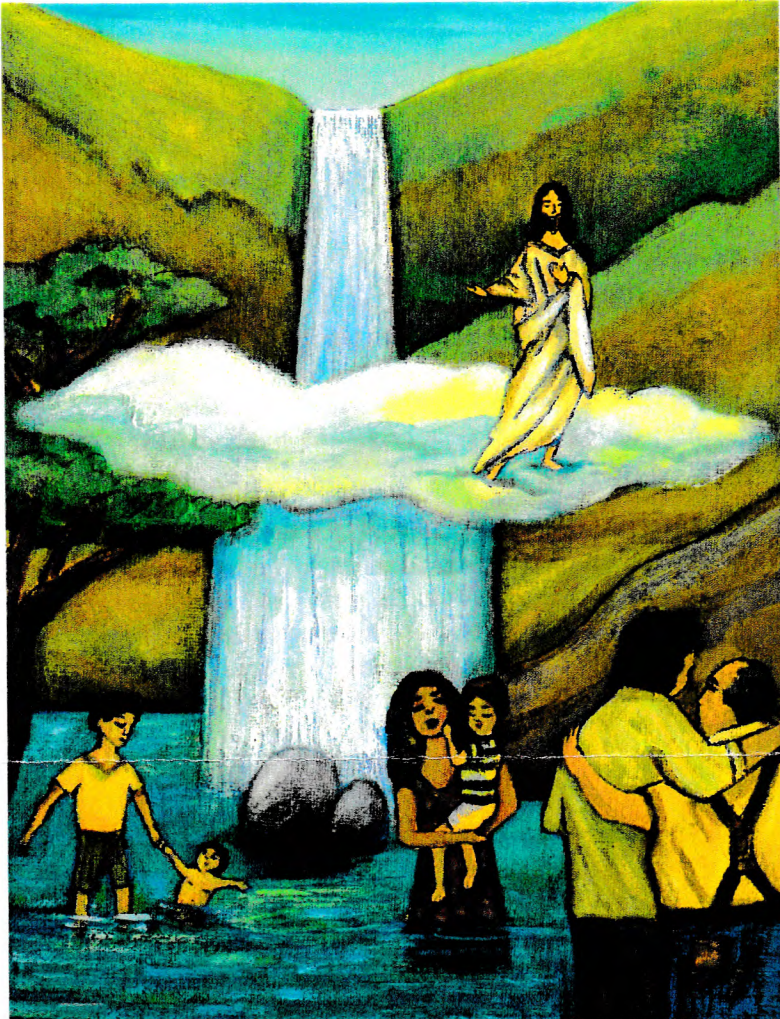


SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Love

O God,
you are the source of all love
and we joyfully lift our voices in song
to give you praise for the gift of
your Son, Jesus,
who gave his life so that we might live.
Help us turn away from the slavery
of sin
and embrace your Word,
who calls us to love one another.
Grant that, with hearts filled
with compassion,
we may courageously lay aside
our needs
and work to promote peace and justice
throughout the world.
Keep us faithful to our
baptismal covenant
so that we may reveal your saving power
and be found on that final day praising
your blessed name.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Love One Another

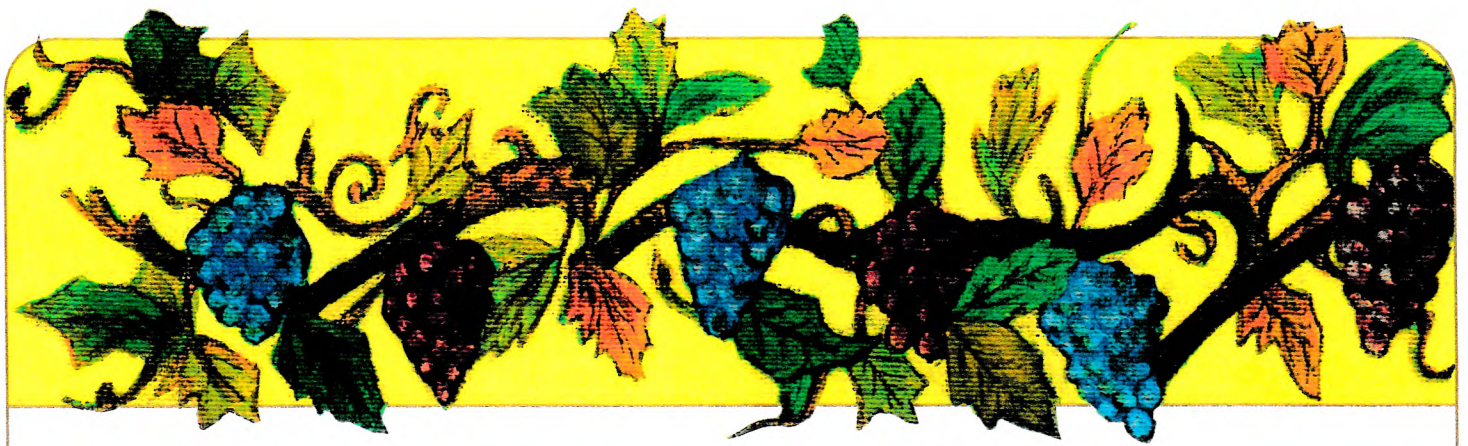


Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48; Psalm 98:1, 2–3 3–4; 1 John 4:7–10; John 15:9–17. John's first letter reminds us once again, in these final days of the Easter season, that God sent his only Son to save us from death. The theme of love permeates today's readings. As is shown in these readings, love requires much more than warm and fuzzy feelings. In death, Christ shows us love. His suffering, death, and Resurrection remind us that love of God and for our neighbors does require, that we set aside those things that hinder us from knowing God. When we open ourselves to God, we are filled with love and love cannot be contained. God's love overflows and yearns to be shared. Because God's love is so great, it is easy for us to

sing the words to Psalm 98. Joined with all of creation, we joyfully sing of God's salvation.

In the Gospel, Jesus commands that we love as he loves, which means we must take the cross seriously. Jesus laid down his life so that we might have life. He went about healing the sick and listening to those on the margins. This is what Jesus teaches us about love, and if we are his followers, we must lay down our life for our neighbors and be willing to risk everything for God's Kingdom.

It is not always easy to love. This week, pray with the Gospel and be attentive to the command, "love one another." Consider hosting a meal for friends and family to show your love.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 7

St. Lydia

The First Reading tells of the conversion of Lydia. She was a dealer of purple cloth, which was expensive. She encounters Paul and Timothy outside the city gates and by God's grace, her heart was opened to receive the Good News. This encounter with the Word moved her to receive Baptism along with her household. The hospitality she provides is the same care we are called to offer our neighbors. Spend fifteen minutes listening to the Lord in silence today. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; John 15:26-16:4a.*

Tuesday, May 8

The Jailer

The reading from Acts provides another account of conversion. After an earthquake opened the door of the cell, the jailer was amazed that the prisoners remained. What moved the jailer to seek the Lord? When the Word of God resonates in our hearts, it shakes with joy and yearns to be in communion with the living God. Paul and Silas teach that belief in God saves. Do you experience daily conversion? Today, pray for those imprisoned in any way. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; John 16:5-11.*

Wednesday, May 9

Mighty and Strong

Is your heart alive with the joy of the Resurrection? Today's Psalm places upon our lips words of praise. Recall the Easter Vigil and the signs and symbols. Christ has truly conquered sin and death, and by his Resurrection, restored all life. We have much to be grateful for and much to share. Join with all of creation and sing your praise to God, who is mighty and strong. How can you spend time expressing praise? Can you do this through drawing, baking, gardening, poetry, or writing in your journal? *Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Psalm 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; John 16:12-15.*

Thursday, May 10

The Ascension of the Lord

Imagine yourself at the Ascension. What do you see? What do you hear? Are you eager to go into the world to make disciples? *Today's Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ephesians 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13; Mark 16:15-20.*

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter

The First Reading introduces us to a married missionary couple: Aquila and Priscilla, who lived and worked with Paul. The little we know about the couple tells us they were strong pillars in their community and great teachers of the faith. Today, pray for all catechists. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:1-8; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 16:16-20.*

Friday, May 11

Shake with Joy

A line in the *Exsultet*, the proclamation the deacon sings at the Easter Vigil, states, "let his holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples." These words are so vivid they nearly bring about a tangible vision. The joy of Christ's triumph over death fills the whole Church and should "shake" our hearts with joy. Allow the love of Christ to capture your being. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 16:20-23.*

Saturday, May 12

Sing

Knowing that God loves you and fills you with joy, lift your voice in song as you sing (even make up a melody) Psalm 47 for your prayer. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:23-28; Psalm 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; John 16:23b-28.*



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Keeping the Seasons
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