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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth:
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us….. Amen.

THE 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.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Psalm 65: 1-7. 16.20*

***R. 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 forever 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 from me. ***[R]***

SECOND READING *1 Peter 3: 15 - 18*

A reading from the first letter of 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.

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: 15-21*

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.

focus on sunday

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 14th May 2023

Wherever the love and compassion of Jesus is present; there we find his Spirit. Wherever his people try to spread some justice and equality, we find his Spirit. In any work of reconciliation or of peace, his Spirit is present. We are called to be people who spread the work and the presence of his Spirit.

NICENE CREED

**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 for following 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.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, ……..

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.....

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Go in peace,
Thanks be to God.

"And you in me and I in you"

We continue to read this Sunday from the Farewell Discourse of John's Gospel (Ch 14-17) where Jesus is consoling the disciples, *"I will not leave you orphaned"*; he will send an "advocate" *(paraklētos)* to them. This term is only found in John's writings and translates as a helper, a comforter, someone whom you call to your aid. Jesus has been this advocate for the disciples but now he will be present for them in a different way, dwelling amongst them, dwelling in them, in-dwelling. This in turn calls for a loving response from the disciples and from all followers of Christ.

In a famous reflection, Joseph Whelan SJ, wrote about this type of love; he said, "Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way." This love will decide everything, what gets you up in the morning, how you spend your time, what breaks your heart, what amazes you. Whelan says, "Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything." Experiencing something of this indwelling presence of God and keeping God's commandments are deeply interconnected. This love will decide everything because it must flow outwards, be lived out in our daily lives, for it cannot be contained.

The words of the Gospel today are deeply intimate, they cannot be understood with the head, only with the heart. As we spend time with them we begin to realise that it is not just the disciple's story, it is also our story, a story we experience on a deep level. It is another reminder to us that all beings are sacred, all beings carry Divine DNA within. Let us begin again to see God present within ourselves, in others and in all of creation.

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

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Co-author of The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew, Messenger Publications, 2022

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