

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Hope Renewed

Gracious God,
we stand before you with grateful hearts.
This season of Easter renews our hope
and inspires the faith we seek to live.
May we be mindful in every moment
that your face shines on us,
and your mercy and compassion

are gifts that you freely offer us.
Inspire us to look for you
in all those who share our journey,
and open our eyes to see
the beauty and grace that surround us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Behold God



Today's readings: Acts 15:1–2, 22–29; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Revelation 21:10–14, 22–23; John 14:23–29. “O God, let all the nations praise you!” we sing in the refrain of the responsorial psalm. Praising God is one of the ways we pray. As the Easter season wanes, perhaps it is time to reflect on ways to integrate words of praise in our prayer life. In the verses sung from Psalm 67 today, the psalmist acclaims the way God rules his people and guides the nations. Where in your life can you see and acclaim the work of God?

During the fifty days of this Easter season, when we contemplate the joy we receive from God's love, seek to deepen your prayer life. Spending time praying the psalms

of the season is one way to do that. Those psalms will help you rest in the knowledge that we are never alone.

Another way to increase your prayer life is to spend time with a phrase from Scripture. For example, bring to prayer the words from the Gospel: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.” Repeat the words and then quietly sit with them, allowing them to penetrate you. Taking time to pray personally and with a community opens up a world where grace, beauty, and love are ever present and, as the late spiritual writer Anthony de Mello, SJ, said, you will find “God beholding you . . . and smiling.”



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 23

Spirit of Life and Truth

When Jesus tells his disciples that the Spirit of truth is coming, he offers hope in the face of rejection and persecution. As disciples living in the present age when respect for life and living with integrity are a challenge, we can find hope in the Holy Spirit breathing in and among us in every moment. *Today's readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

Tuesday, May 24

Be Kind

The word *kindness* is used in reference to God twice in the psalm today. God's kindness is abundant and never-ending. What about the kindness you exhibit? Is it contingent on your mood? Kindness has the ability to heal and strengthen a wounded soul. We need to be willing to search our hearts and find and share the kindness that has been shown to us. *Today's readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; John 16:5–11.*

Wednesday, May 25

A Guide to Truth

The Spirit reveals the truth that God is all knowing, loving, and merciful. Accepting this truth may mean that we need to change how we live with ourselves and others. The Holy Spirit is available to assist with this challenge. As today's Gospel states, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." Pray for the grace to allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through you so that others come to know the truth. *Today's readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

Thursday, May 26

The Ascension of the Lord

Before Jesus ascends, he tells the apostles that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. But

what is that power? St. Paul might answer that query when he speaks to the Ephesians about a Spirit of wisdom and revelation that results in knowledge of Christ. *Today's readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23 or Ephesians 1:17–23; Luke 24:46–53.*

Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter
Patience

"A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me." These words left the disciples in a quandary. We too may be confused by how God is working in the world. Our questions are not always answered, but when we allow God to be involved in our lives, we live into the answers. Prayer and patience will lead to peace. *Today's readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

Friday, May 27

Joy Unending

In today's Gospel, we hear that joy is birthed from pain. Jesus tells his disciples that the pain that they experience as followers will give way to joy when they see Christ again. We too can rest in the reassurance that our hearts will rejoice when we are with God. *Today's readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

Saturday, May 28

A Father's Love

Jesus encourages the disciples when he says, "whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you." Our relationship with God through Jesus gives us confidence that our prayers will be heard. When you pray this week, do so with the awareness of the Father's love and care, the same love and care Jesus relied on in his ministry. *Today's readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*

