

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Peace of Christ

O God of All Nations,  
you became incarnate to free us from  
the burden of sin  
and to show us profound love.  
We humbly pray  
that we may receive the peace the world  
cannot give,  
a peace that calms fearful hearts  
and opens us to heed your holy Word.  
May the Advocate teach us your ways  
and awaken within us a love for Jesus,  
your Son.  
May your Holy Spirit sustain our faith,  
keep us safe, and bestow upon us perfect joy.  
Grant us fortitude and perseverance  
so that we may be heralds of the  
peace of Christ.  
And on that final day,  
may you welcome us at the eternal feast.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Keep My Word



*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. The message this Sunday continues the theme from last week and begins to prepare us for the celebration of the Ascension. Again, this story appears before the Passion, but we see it now in light of the Resurrection and the promises of Christ.

This Gospel can be looked at in three sections. In the first section, Jesus asserts that those who love him will keep his Word. What is his Word? If we have fallen in love with Christ, how can we not love like him? We must heed his actions and his teaching. In the second part of the passage, Jesus foretells the coming of the Holy Spirit who will teach us and guide us on the path to remain faithful to the Word.

We received the Holy Spirit in Baptism and, lovingly, the Spirit continues to draw us into the heart of Christ. The third section promises us Christ's peace, which will remove all fear so that we can go forth into the world and witness to the love of Christ.

The love that enveloped us in Baptism is a radical love that transforms our hearts to see the world through a new lens. We are called to attend to the poor, the sick, the outcasts. Who are these children of God in your community? Are you aware that God dwells within you? How does God's Word call you to live? Spend some time with the word *love* this week and create a piece of art that depicts its meaning and your relationship with Christ.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, May 2, 2016**

### Memorial of St. Athanasius

Today, the Church remembers St. Athanasius, who fought against the Arian heresy to uphold the teaching that Christ was fully human and fully divine. He suffered many hardships in his ministry, but he persevered and remained faithful to Christ. You might want to reflect today on the teachings in the Nicene Creed. *Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; John 15:26–16:4a.*

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

### Feast of Sts. Philip and James

The Scriptures do not tell us much about James the Lesser except that he was called by Jesus to be among the Twelve. Philip is mentioned a few times, and we know from today's Gospel that it took him a while to realize who Jesus was. Do you continue to strive to realize who Jesus is? What does Jesus mean to you? *Today's Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5; John 14:6–14.*

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

### Our Guide

As we approach the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, the Gospel reminds us that the Holy Spirit will guide our steps until Jesus returns in glory. Allow the Spirit to breathe life into you. In the coming days, find a prayer or hymn to the Holy Spirit, and pray it. *Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22–18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14; John 16:12–15.*

**Thursday, May 5, 2016**

### Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

We are witnesses to the Paschal Mystery. Like the Apostles, Jesus has blessed us and sent us on mission to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth. He promises to send his Spirit upon us to guide us in this great mission. Jesus remains with his Church in the power of the Holy Spirit. Read over

today's Gospel, pausing and meditating on the phrase, "And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy." *Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23 or Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23; Luke 24:46–53.*

**Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter**

The Gospel reveals that Jesus is going away but will return. We know that Jesus ascends into heaven and will return on that final day to reign in glory. That final day seems far off, but even now, we should be living in a manner that prepares us for Jesus' Second Coming. Since Aquila and Priscilla are mentioned in the First Reading, take some time to research their story. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:1–8; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 16:16–20.*

**Friday, May 6, 2016**

### Squabble

Though the Jewish community rose up against Paul, we see in the First Reading that the political leader saw this as a squabble over titles and doctrines. We still squabble over titles and doctrines. Let us pray for peace within the Church and that the Holy Spirit remain our guide. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 16:20–23.*

**Saturday, May 7, 2016**

### Study

By study and knowledge of Scripture, Apollos attests that Jesus is the Christ. The Word of God transformed his heart and inspired him to share the news that Jesus is Lord. Our psalm today invites us to give praise for this truth. Consider how the study of Scripture has helped you develop a deeper love for Christ. Does the proclamation of the Word at Mass rouse your heart and lead you, like Apollos, to share the Word? Today begins the Novena to the Holy Spirit as we approach Pentecost. Find this prayer and share it with friends and family as the Church calls upon the Spirit. *Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10; John 16:23b–28.*

