

May 5

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ✠

(LECT. 56—YEAR B)

When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the following Sunday, the second reading and Gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter (Lect. 60, pages 124–125) may be read on the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Falling head over heels in love with someone, when your beloved is all you can think about, is an incredibly powerful feeling. Our first experience of this was likely as a baby, with the bond between us and a parent. If we're lucky, we fall completely in love again as a young adult, with someone we eventually marry. If we have children, we experience that feeling again and again. In each case—with a parent, a spouse, a close friend, a child—we are willing, as today's Gospel says, even to lay down our lives for the one we love. We do so in an everyday sense when we lay down our own priorities, choices, and desires for someone else's. How extraordinary it is, then, that Jesus literally lay down his life for all of us (for we are all his loved ones) to give us new life. Just as with us, the reason he does that is love—the love he has for his Father as well as the love he has for all of humanity. May we take to heart that every person is loved by God as we love our own loved ones, and therefore that every person is someone whom we are called to love selflessly as well.

How can you show more often the selfless love that Jesus modeled?

SIT

First Reading

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being."


Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.


The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (R/. cf. 2b)*

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R/. The Lord has re-vealed to the na - tions his



sav - ing pow'r, his sav - ing pow'r.

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(LPGA B51) Steven C. Warner

Alternative psalm response: Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song, / for he has done wondrous deeds;
his right hand has won victory for him, / his holy arm. **R/.**

The LORD has made his salvation known: /
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness /
toward the house of Israel. **R/.**

All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; / break into song; sing praise. **R/.**

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

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R/. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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(LPGA B51) James O. Gerrish

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, /
and my Father will love him and we will come to him. **R/.**

Gospel

John 15:9-17

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.