

6th Sunday of Easter May 22, 2022

Welcome to the **6th Sunday of Easter**. **This** is the day Jesus promises his disciples that God's love will flow through them and the holy Spirit will come to guide them. The readings remind us that all who follow Jesus' commandments of love, will know God's love. We hope that:

1. you gain some understanding of the promises that Jesus made before his crucifixion
Promises:
 - a. that if the disciples follow Jesus' teachings, God will dwell in them and they will feel his presence just as we will
 - b. that the Holy Spirit will come to the disciples and teach them as Jesus did and just as the Holy Spirit teaches us today
 - c. that Jesus will leave his peace which will give the disciples the courage and wisdom to continue with Jesus' work

2. all will find comfort in knowing that God is always with us and helping us just as the disciples were helped.

Let us begin with the first reading from the **Book of Revelation**: This is the final book of the New Testament and therefore also the final book of our Christian Bible. It is believed that the Book of Revelation was written around 100 AD (anno domini) which means the "year of the Lord". This was a time of torture and murder. And people who had lived through the period of destruction and killing of people of faith, both Christians and Jews, were very afraid. The angel in the first reading took John (who may have been the author of this reading) to the top of a high mountain to be closer to heaven, so he could see the holy city of Jerusalem. The description of the golden city of Jerusalem that you will read below brought hope to the early believers,

Book of Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23)

**With the help of the Spirit,
the angel took me to the top of a very high mountain.
There he showed me the holy city of Jerusalem
coming down from God in heaven.**

**The glory of God made the city bright.
It was dazzling and crystal clear like a precious jasper stone.**

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The city had a high and thick wall with twelve gates,
and each one of them was guarded by an angel.
On each of the gates was written
the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel.
Three of these gates were on the east,
three were on the north,
three were on the south,
and the other three were on the west.
The city was built on twelve foundation stones.
On each of the stones was written
the name of one of the Lamb's twelve apostles.

I did not see a temple there.
The Lord God All-Powerful and the Lamb were its temple.
And the city did not need the sun or the moon.
The glory of God was shining on it,
and the Lamb was its light.
The word of the Lord.

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The holy city of Jerusalem incorporates the symbols of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles who are represented by the 12 foundation stones. People from the north, south, east, and west were invited into this magnificent city, so the gates were found on the North, South, East, and West in groups of three each. So many important cities such as Jerusalem would have a temple in its center. However this heavenly city needed no temple because it's temple is the "Lord God almighty and the Lamb." There was neither a sun nor a moon to bring light. THE GLORY OF GOD GAVE IT LIGHT AND the lamb, Jesus, was its lamp. This vision gave people of the time hope that the church and God would see them through their difficulties.

The next reading is a Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 67: 1-2, 4,5,7). This psalm is a joyful prayer that reminds us that everyone on earth will learn to follow God and see that his power will save us. The prayer asks God to continue with his blessings so that we will all come to worship him. It should remind us to be thankful for all that he has given us. Think about this and make a list of what **you** are thankful for.

Thank you God for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 67: 1-2, 4, 5, 7)

R/: O God let all the nations praise you!

Our God, be kind and bless us!

Be pleased and smile.

Then everyone on earth

will learn to follow you,

and all nations will see

your power to save us.

R/: O God let all the nations praise you!

Let the nations celebrate

with joyful songs,

Because you judge fairly

and guide all nations

R/: O God let all the nations praise you!

Make everyone praise you

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and shout your praises.

Pray for his blessings to continue
and for everyone on earth
to worship our God.

R/: O God let all the nations praise you!

Today's Gospel reading is from the Book of John. It begins with Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples. It includes important references to his promises and lets people be not afraid. Jesus is aware that he is soon to be crucified and will not be with them. He tells them what is important and what they must know while he is still here. He promises that God, his father, will send an advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach them everything they need to know and remind them of all that Jesus had taught them. He also promises that even though he is going away, he will come back to them.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 14: 23-26)

Jesus said:

"If anyone loves me, they will obey me.

Then my Father will love them,

and we will come to them and live in them.

But anyone who doesn't love me,

won't obey me.

What they have heard me say does not really come from me,

But from the Father who sent me.

I have told you these things while I am with you.

But the Holy Spirit will come and help you,

Because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place.

The Spirit will teach you everything

and will remind you of what I said while I was with you."

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

...

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.

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The Gospel will give you some understanding of the promises that Jesus made before his crucifixion

1. If the disciples follow Jesus' teachings, God will live in them and they will feel his presence.
2. The Holy Spirit will come to the disciples and teach them as Jesus did and just as the Holy Spirit teaches us today.
3. Jesus will leave his peace which will give the disciples the courage and wisdom to continue with Jesus' work.

Questions:

1. In the first reading, who is the lamb ?
2. Why didn't this heavenly Jerusalem need a sun or a moon for light.
3. Do you think you have ever felt Jesus' presence? If yes, how did it make you feel? If not, what can you do to allow Jesus' love to enter so you can feel his presence?
4. Why did the disciples need the help of Jesus' peace?

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Answers

1. In the first reading, who is the lamb ?
Jesus
2. Why didn't this holy Jerusalem need a sun or a moon for light.
The Glory of God was shining on it
And the Lamb was its light
3. Have you ever felt Jesus' presence? If yes, how did it make you feel? If not, what can you do to allow Jesus' love to enter you so you can feel his presence?
(Your own answer here!)
4. Why did the disciples need the help of Jesus' peace?
Jesus will leave his peace which will give the disciples
the courage and wisdom to continue with Jesus' work.

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Michaela Quinlan