

## Today in Focus

MAY 17 » SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# Live as people of the gospel



Soon, we will celebrate two feasts. The Ascension closes Jesus' earthly life, and Pentecost will reveal the Holy Spirit who comes to fulfill Jesus' promise to us: "I will not leave you orphans" and "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth."

These final movements in the Easter season prepare us to accept the challenge to go forth to love and to serve the Lord. We become signs of God's presence by strengthening our families and friendships, respecting life, attending to our environment, keeping our bodies healthy, praying for others, consoling the sick and those in need, finding Christ in our sufferings, witnessing Christ in our lives each day, showing compassion, and promoting reconciliation.

In the Eucharist we come forward to share in the life of God as we receive the Body and Blood of his Son, Jesus Christ. Let us pray that we will become what we eat: the Body of Christ. Nourished with this holy food, we will move with the force of the Holy Spirit and the fire of God's love to live as people of the gospel. ● **REV. DR. MATTHEW DURHAM, OSB**

# Sunday, May 17

*In those places where the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated next Sunday, the second reading and gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter may be read today (see pages 167-168).*

## **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*(Cf. Isaiah 48:20)*

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

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## **INTRODUCTORY RITES** (page 27)

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## **COLLECT**

Grant, almighty God,  
that we may celebrate with  
heartfelt devotion these  
days of joy,  
which we keep in honor of

the risen Lord,  
and that what we relive in  
remembrance  
we may always hold to in  
what we do.

Through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

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## **FIRST READING** (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17)

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For

unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized 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.**

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20)

**R** Let all the earth cry out to God  
with joy. **OR Alleluia.**

Shout joyfully to God,  
all the earth,

sing praise to the glory  
of his name;  
proclaim his glorious praise.

Say to God, "How  
tremendous are your  
deeds!" **R**

"Let all on earth worship  
and sing praise to you,  
sing praise to your name!"

Come and see the works  
of God,  
his tremendous deeds  
among the children  
of Adam. **R**

He has changed the sea  
into dry land;  
through the river  
they passed on foot;  
therefore let us rejoice  
in him.

He rules by his might forever. **R**

Hear now, all you who fear  
God, while I declare  
what he has done for me.

Blessed be God who refused  
me not  
my prayer or his kindness!

**R**

**SECOND READING** (1 Peter 3:15-18)

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA** (John 14:23)

**Alleluia, alleluia.** Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will

love him and we will come to him. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

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**GOSPEL** (John 14:15-21)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus said to his disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my command-

ments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”  
The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

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**PROFESSION OF FAITH** (page 30)

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**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

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**PREPARATION OF GIFTS** (page 32)

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**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May our prayers rise up to  
you, O Lord,  
together with the sacrificial  
offerings,  
so that, purified by your  
graciousness,  
we may be conformed to the  
mysteries of your mighty  
love.

Through Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

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**PREFACE** (*Easter, pages 33-34*)

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**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

(*John 14:15-16*)

If you love me, keep my  
commandments, says the  
Lord, and I will ask the  
Father and he will send you  
another Paraclete, to abide  
with you for ever, alleluia.

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who restore us to eternal life  
in the Resurrection of Christ,  
increase in us, we pray, the  
fruits of this paschal  
Sacrament  
and pour into our hearts  
the strength of this saving  
food.

Through Christ our Lord.

***Amen.***

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**BLESSING & DISMISSAL** (page 58)



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Jesus challenges us to love others as we love him.

- **How might I respond to this challenge by my love for others at home, at work, or at school this week?**

*Jesus, I will...*

SAYING AMEN

In the Collect, we pray that “our heartfelt devotion” in “these days of joy” may also be lived out in our lives.

- **How does my celebration of Easter affect the way I live?**

*Father, today...*

## Living with Christ **This Week**

### SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

This week we move to the end of the Easter season with Jesus’ ascension and the anticipation of the gift of the Holy Spirit. We continue to follow Paul’s missionary journeys as God provides helpers to share his work of building communities. Jesus reminds the disciples that he must end his human time on earth, but he promises that he will send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples carry on his work. ●

### GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Use these intercessions with your prayers.

- For those seeking to know God more fully:  
**R** *Send your Holy Spirit, O Lord.*
- For those seeking reconciliation in our households, Church, and world: **R**
- For our beloved dead, who are living with Christ in heaven: **R**