

May 17

2020

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF

# *Easter*

JESUS SAID,  
"I WILL ASK THE FATHER, AND HE WILL  
GIVE YOU ANOTHER ADVOCATE  
TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS,  
THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH."

John 14:16-17



## *Saint Rita Of Cascia* (1381-1457)

May 22

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22, forget parking anywhere near Saint Rita's shrine. Cars line streets and fill medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and—as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies—difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children. Wise people warn, be careful what you pray for. "Divine Savior," Rita prayed, "let me suffer like you!" Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died. Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for forty years on earth—and ever since in heaven.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



"What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

## *Readings for the Week*

<b>Monday:</b>	Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15
<b>Thursday:</b>	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20 (for Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20
<b>Friday:</b>	Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23
<b>Saturday:</b>	Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28
<b>Sunday:</b>	Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a; or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17- 23; Mt 28:16-20

## *Saints and Special Observances*

<b>Sunday:</b>	Sixth Sunday of Easter
<b>Monday:</b>	St. John I
<b>Wednesday:</b>	St. Bernardine of Siena
<b>Thursday:</b>	The Ascension of the Lord (unless transferred to Sunday); St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions
<b>Friday:</b>	St. Rita of Cascia

## *Light Of Belief*

Every believer in this world must become a spark of light.  
—Pope Saint John XXIII

## *Today's Readings*

**First Reading** — The people of Samaria accepted the word of God preached by Philip; they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17).

**Psalm** — Let all the earth cry out to God with joy (Psalm 66)

**Second Reading** — Act with gentleness and reverence toward all, so that when you are maligned those who defame you will be the ones put to shame (1 Peter 3:15-18) or 1 Peter 4:13-16.

**Gospel** — I will not leave you orphans, but will come to you (John 14:15-21) or Jn 17:1-11a.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## *Treasures From Our Tradition*

There is a geography to the liturgy of baptism that distills the journey of faith. Each part of the liturgy is assigned to a distinct part of the church building. Baptism, whether of infants carried to church by their parents or of adults following the paschal candle into a darkened church at Easter, starts at the door. First, a threshold must be crossed and a new community of meaning and memory encountered for the first time. Then, the celebration moves to the place for God's Word. Next, as the litany of the saints is sung, there is a procession to the font. Finally, the movement is to the table, the altar of the Eucharist. There, newly baptized adults are brought to the sacred meal, or the parents of infants are blessed and reminded that their child will one day share fully in the table's banquet.

Many Catholic churches honor this geography by placing the font near the door, or at least small vessels with water. The doorway of our church is a place of memory, and a passageway to a new way of living.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

As Jesus prepared the apostles for the time when he would no longer be with them physically, and knowing that they would face hardship, trials, and persecution in the future, he promised them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Through baptism that same Spirit dwells within us, always with us to guide us in the truth of God's love and strengthen us so that we may know Christ and live as Christ's people. Now, as in every time, God knows it is not always easy to live as a Christian. With the assurance of the Holy Spirit's presence, we find the grace to love Jesus and to keep the Lord's commandments.

## *Strengthened To Live As Christ's Own*

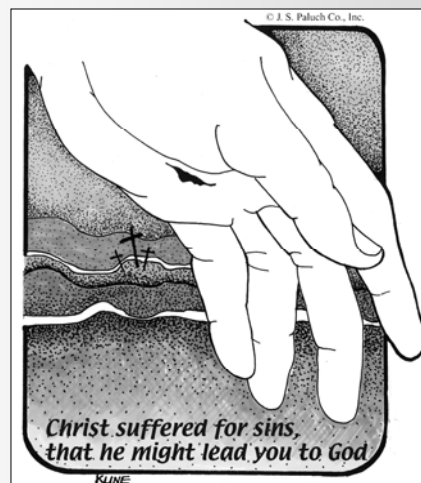
We might look at the world around us and conclude that this is the most challenging time in history during which to live as a person of faith. Yet we know this is not so. Throughout the ages, people of faith have faced mockery, persecution, and even death as a result of their commitment to Christ. Still, it is important for us to acknowledge the challenge of living as a Christian today, when faith is viewed with ambivalence at best, and often with antagonism. Some do not understand how faith and reason can sit side by side, even though many of the world's greatest scientific discoveries have been made by people of faith. Others see the failures of the Church or its leaders and discount faith as a result. We rely on the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit to be with us when we are mocked or simply misunderstood on account of our faith in Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we will find the grace to live with conviction as Christian people.

## *The Reason For Our Hope*

Saint Peter admonishes us, "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope." One of the greatest gifts of faith in our lives is our hope in Christ Jesus. Through Christ, we keep our eyes on the wider view of life here on earth and everlasting life with God. We know that the trials and challenges of today do not have the final word, and do not have power over us. With the presence of the Advocate, we have the help we need to live as God directs and desires, so that the world might come to know Christ through the witness of our lives. This is a hope-filled, meaningful way of life. When so much of our surrounding culture speaks of impermanence and momentary distractions, we have the hope of meaning and purpose today and the promise of eternal life to come.

Today's Readings: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Ps 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



# Sunday Readings

## May 17, 2020

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

#### Reading 1

**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.

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20**

R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or:

R. 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 the earth cry out to God with joy.

or:

R. Alleluia.

"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. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or:

R. Alleluia.

#### Reading 2

**1 Pt 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.

#### Gospel

**Jn 14:15–21**

Jesus 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 commandments 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."

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved

# Prayer of the Faithful

*May 17, 2020*  
*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

**We place our hope in our loving God whenever we remember the needs of our brothers and sisters in the world, and so we pray.**

**For the hope of renewal in our Church throughout the world,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For wisdom and courage for our leaders as they struggle to find  
the best path during this time,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For patience, generosity, and a sense of community  
obligation among all those who have been asked  
to shelter in place,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For students ending their school year at home, for teachers  
working remotely, and for parents and families supporting and  
working with their school-age children,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those whose lives are at risk because of their service to  
others in these days of the pandemic,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19,  
and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N.,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts;  
for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,  
let us pray to the Lord.**

**O God, we know you love us deeply;  
help us to love you in return  
by observing your commandments.  
Kindly hear this and all of these our prayers  
which we make in the name of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our risen Lord.**

**Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.**