

Sunday Message

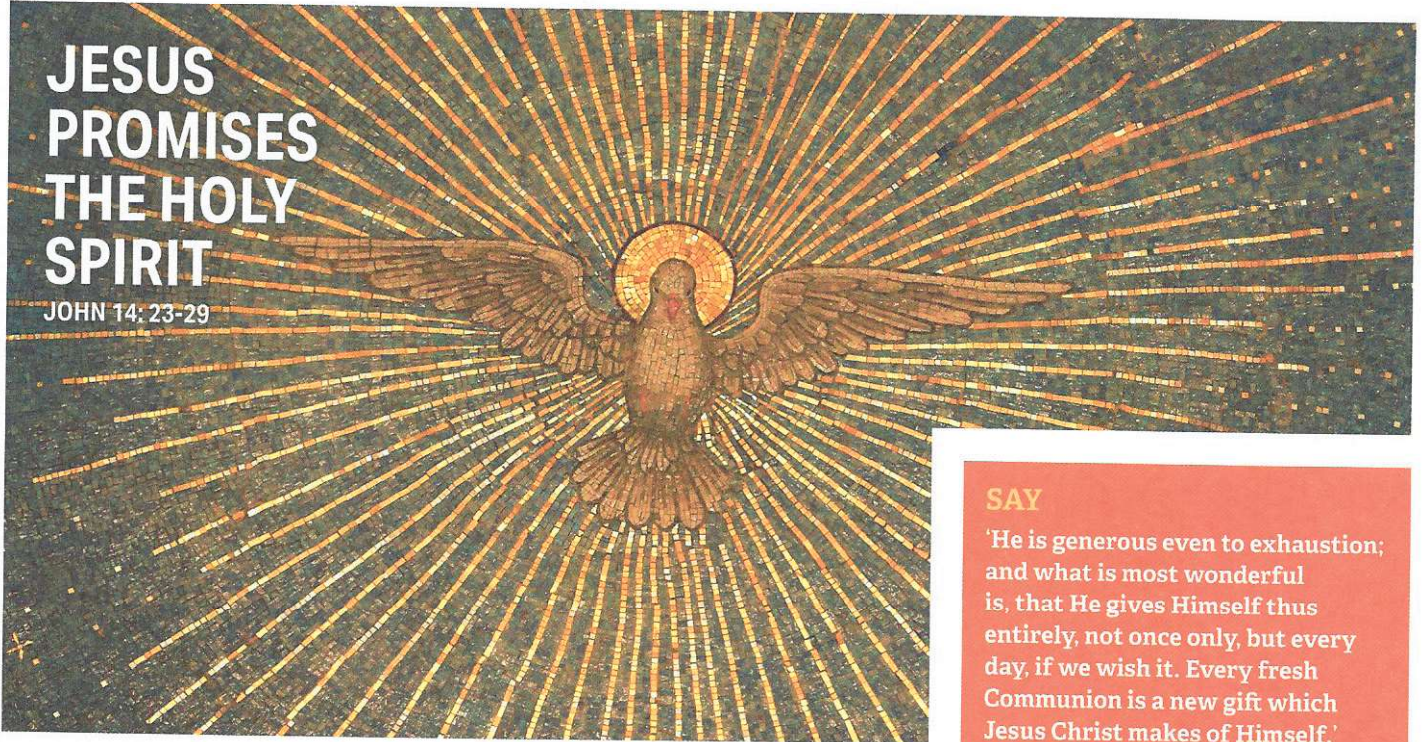
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • 25th May 2025 • Psalter Week 2

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

JOHN 14: 23-29



We can sense from today's Gospel, that the work of preparation is underway. Jesus preparing his disciples for a world where they will feel alone.

Over the many discourses in John's Gospel, it must be finally sinking in that Jesus must return to God the Father. In doing so, Jesus assures them that they will always have the presence of God working through them in the form of the Spirit. He counsels his disciples not to be afraid. He leaves them his word and his peace, and the promise of the Advocate will help them in future to be his apostles. These lines are designed to instil confidence in this core group of believers and ensure that they will have the tools necessary to bring the message of Christ to everyone. ■

SAY

'He is generous even to exhaustion; and what is most wonderful is, that He gives Himself thus entirely, not once only, but every day, if we wish it. Every fresh Communion is a new gift which Jesus Christ makes of Himself.' (St. Ignatius Loyola)

DO

The next time you attend Mass, concentrate more fully on the Word of God (first reading, psalm, second reading and Gospel). Allow the words to effect you and take one message home with you, something that will help you in your relationship with God.



REFLECT

French vocabulary is sometimes more precise than English. "Goodbye" is a case in point. The French use *Au revoir* for those everyday temporary separations, while *Adieu* is reserved strictly for final departures; it means roughly "until we meet in heaven." Life is a succession of *Au revours* and *Adieus*. The number of the latter grows with the passing years. Our hearts and memories are peopled with faces that once were dear to us. Some, like our parents, have died. Others moved away out of our lives never to reappear again. If their names crop up in conversation we say, "I wonder what became of so-and-so." They may say the same about us too. Life is a series of little deaths until our own death which for us will be the last great *Adieu*. We are, as never before, a pilgrim people, on the move. We need faithful friends who travel with us. In today's gospel, Jesus alerts his disciples to his imminent departure, his ascension into heaven. He doesn't say *Adieu* but *Au revoir*. "I am going away, but I shall return." We never really say goodbye to God, for God always goes with us. Notice how immigrants who leave their families, friends, language and cultures and settle, often penniless and in a hostile environment, on the other side of the globe, begin by building houses of worship. God is what they cling on to. God keeps his promise to be with us always. He will always keep his side of the bargain. It is up to us to keep ours. And when we come to the end of our pilgrimage here and have to make our last goodbye, it will be literally *Adieu*, "going to God." ■

LEARN

'It is the joyful simplicity of life inspired by the Gospel and the Gospel's spirit of fraternal sharing that you will find the best remedy for the temptation to make money the principle means and indeed the very measure of human advancement.' (Pope John Paul II)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honour 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,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 15:1-2. 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: Some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the Apostles and the elders about this question.

Then it seemed good to the Apostles and the elders, with the whole Church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers and sisters, with the following letter:

'The brothers, both the Apostles and the elders, to the brothers and sisters who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 67(66):2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. 4

*R: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

Or *Alleluia.*

1. May God be gracious and bless us
and let his face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your salvation. *R.*
2. Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,
with uprightness you rule the peoples;
you guide the nations on earth. *R.*
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
that all the ends of the earth may revere him. *R.*

SECOND READING Revelation 21:10-14. 22-23

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

The angel carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed – on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 14:23

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.'

'These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*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.*

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.