

The Living Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

17 May 2020

First Reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

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

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and
we will come to them.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:15-21

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved
by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a Paraclete, and he would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, parallel. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

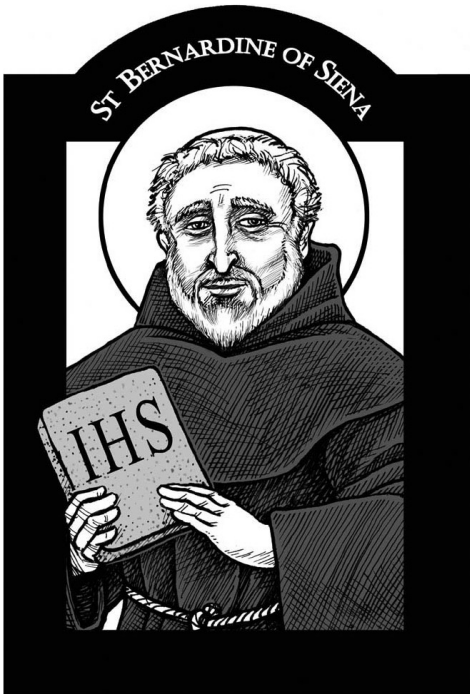
That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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St Bernardine was the son of the governor of Siena. He was orphaned at age six and was brought up by his aunt. He became a Franciscan friar at the age of twenty two and travelled all over Italy, preaching several sermons a day to large crowds. He is remembered for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. At the end of his sermons he would hold up for veneration a plaque on which he wrote IHS - the Greek translation of 'Jesus'. Through his preaching, Bernardine was responsible for a vast number of conversions to Christianity. In 1437 he became the vicar-general of the Observant branch of the friars, during which time the number of Observants rose tenfold due to his popularity. After establishing theology schools for the friars, he returned to his favourite task of preaching at the age of sixty three, but died a year later on the 20th of May.

The Spirit will show you what is true

Answer the following questions True or False

Jesus only loves those who do good deeds. _____

The Holy Spirit is always with us. _____

God sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples. _____

Jesus said "You should not love your enemies". _____

During Pentecost we celebrate the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit. _____

Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- accept
- come back
- command
- Father
- help
- Holy Spirit
- love
- one
- orphans
- people
- see
- true

R	T	F	B	G	P	R	F	W	J	E	E	I	S	B	D	W
P	X	I	K	D	L	H	F	L	M	C	Q	A	H	F	V	G
D	X	Z	R	P	E	O	P	L	E	S	I	M	E	M	P	S
E	F	S	B	I	H	L	E	X	Q	B	E	T	V	V	J	A
V	A	V	M	L	P	F	A	T	H	E	R	E	O	W	T	O
H	M	S	P	O	R	S	A	P	V	Q	V	L	L	D	F	N
R	U	B	Z	V	F	C	Y	D	O	S	L	X	O	R	T	E
P	O	R	G	V	Y	Y	F	L	G	Y	M	M	L	T	Y	A
S	B	L	B	P	Q	J	C	T	O	L	Z	Q	V	B	X	Q
K	W	H	K	T	H	C	O	P	T	H	L	E	V	K	G	S
M	R	H	T	K	O	S	M	G	X	G	W	J	O	X	J	V
T	T	I	R	M	M	D	E	E	J	F	A	R	F	F	V	Y
H	B	V	M	V	N	B	B	A	C	C	E	P	T	W	W	J
H	Y	A	W	Z	Q	I	A	H	O	J	P	D	A	R	G	Q
V	N	L	L	X	T	E	C	H	D	T	D	F	N	N	U	J
D	C	Z	T	A	P	G	K	V	J	Y	B	U	O	J	S	E
H	Y	T	Y	O	R	P	H	A	N	S	S	H	I	C	L	P