

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 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and
remind you of all I have said to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my
words. And my word is not my own;
it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you
while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift
to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad
to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel

LOVE, PEACE AND THE SPIRIT

Jesus' words in today's Gospel are sparked
by a question from Judas (not Iscariot). He
wants to know how, during Jesus' forthcoming
physical absence, the community of believers
will have a sense of his presence, even though
to the rest of the world he will be entirely
absent. In response, Jesus insists upon three
things: love, the Paraclete (Holy Spirit) and
peace.

First of all, believers who truly love Jesus have
his word that he and the Father have made
their 'home' within them. The 'community
of love' constituted by Father and Son will
'dwell' (literally, 'set up house') within their
hearts. While, unlike the original disciples,
they may not see and hear and touch Jesus
physically, faith will give them a sense of
living constantly the extraordinary of being
'at home' with God and God's 'at home-ness'
with them.

Secondly, to compensate for the loss of the
teaching, guidance and encouragement
under trial given by Jesus, they will have the
presence of the Holy Spirit. The description
of the Spirit as 'Paraclete' or 'Counsellor'
takes its cue from the sense of a powerful and
respected friend who stands by you when you
are in trouble or under accusation—the sort of
person you would like to have in court as both
lawyer and character referee.

Finally, Jesus will bequeath to the community
the gift of peace. This does not mean that
there will never be disputes or disagreements
but rather that there will be given a capacity
for resolving such disputes in such a way that
peace is restored or even more deeply secured.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

26 MAY 2019

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-2,22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves
not to burden you beyond what is essential.*

Some men came down from Judaea and taught
the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves
circumcised in the tradition of Moses you
cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement,
and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long
argument with these men it was arranged that
Paul and Barnabas and others of the church
should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the
problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to
choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul
and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with
this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and
Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood,
and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send
greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in
Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some
of our members have disturbed you with their
demands and have unsettled your minds. They
acted without any authority from us, and so
we have decided unanimously to elect delegates
and to send them to you with Barnabas and
Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated
their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas,
who will confirm by word of mouth what we
have written in this letter. It has been decided
by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle
you with any burden beyond these essentials:
you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols,
from blood, from the meat of strangled animals
and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will
do what is right. Farewell.'

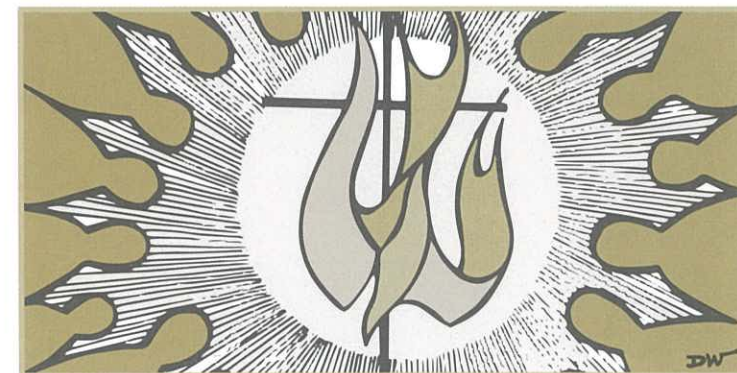
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66:2-3,5-6,8. R. v. 4

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!
(or Alleluia!)

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let
your face shed its light upon us. / So will your
ways be known upon earth / and all nations
learn your saving help. **R.**



2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you
rule the world with justice. / With fairness 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 / till the ends of the earth revere
him. **R.**

SECOND READING

Apoc 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of
an enormous high mountain and showed me
Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from
God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory
of God and glittered like some precious jewel
of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were
of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each
of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over
the gates were written the names of the twelve
tribes of Israel; on the east there were three
gates, on the north three gates, on the south
three gates, and on the west three gates. The
city walls stood on twelve foundation stones,
each one of which bore the name of one of the
twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city
since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb
were themselves the temple, and the city did
not need the sun or the moon for light, since
it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the
Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

■ The word of the Lord.