

OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

The Gospel encourages the transformed community to be rooted in love, remain in Jesus' love and be fruitful in love. What does it mean to have joy that is complete? What does it mean to you that Jesus considers you His friend? What do you think it means when Jesus says to ask the Father in my name and he may give it to you.

Reading I: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, "Get up. I myself am also a human being." Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?" He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

This reading focuses on the consequences of the message of God's love for the community, and the expectations regarding attitudes and actions for the individual believers. Being acceptable to God is not based on nationality or customs but on the fear of the Lord and righteousness of life. Knowing that God's love is for ALL people, how does this change the manner in which you might approach being a witness for Christ. How important is being open to the Holy Spirit in these matters? How might we allow the Holy Spirit to enter more deeply into our every day life?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Reading II: 1 John 4:7-10

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

This reading affirms that God IS love. True love is God's self-giving love for us, expressed in God's sending of His son for the forgiveness of our sins. Imagine a life without this gift of love. What would life be like if we did not know or belong to God?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY 5 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MONDAY 6 EASTER WEEKDAY

TUESDAY 7 EASTER WEEKDAY

WEDNESDAY 8 EASTER WEEKDAY

**THURSDAY 9 ECCLESATICAL PROVINCES OF BOSTON, HARTFORD, NEW YORK, OMAHA, PHILADELPHIA:
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD [ALL OTHER PROVINCES: EASTER WEEKDAY]**

FRIDAY 10 EASTER WEEKDAY

SATURDAY 11 EASTER WEEKDAY

reflect

Think about how immeasurable God's love is for you!

pray

Father God, help me to love the way You love. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

live

Challenge yourself to give love as God does unconditionally