

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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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

22 MAY 2022

CHRIST OUR LIGHT

‘If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and the Father will love him.’ Put like that it sounds so simple and yet in the life of the early Church one of the burning issues was what it meant to keep Jesus’ word. For Jewish Christians being faithful to Jesus entailed keeping the Law of Moses and requiring Gentile Christians to do the same. The Acts of the Apostles describes how Jewish Christians who came from Judea to Antioch were firmly convinced that keeping the law was the principal way that a person could love Jesus.

The response of the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, after heated debate and lengthy consideration, was to propose a compromise that was hoped would enable both Jewish and Gentile Christians to live in peace with one another and to partake in table companionship.

The life of the early Church was by no means without conflict, misunderstanding, or difficulties. Like us, they had to work hard to see the signs of the times and to discern what it was that the Lord was asking of them. In the midst of all this Jesus’ promise of the Spirit and of his peace is no small comfort. Jesus is with us, there is no reason to let our hearts be troubled or afraid. John’s vision of the heavenly Jerusalem is meant to give us heart knowing that the goal of our journey is in sight. With Christ as our light there is no need to fear.

FIRST READING

Acts 15:1-2,22-29

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.**