

6th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Welcome!

United in Spirit and with great joy as we continue our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, we at Jesus the Divine Word Church encourage our parishioners to join one another in prayer from our homes, reading and reflecting on the Word of God for this 6th Sunday of Easter and through the live streaming of our Mass at 10 AM (replayed at 12 Noon).

Living the Word

Theme: *To Know Him is to love Him*

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Opening Prayer

Not as orphans did Jesus leave us, O God,
for he asked you to give us another Advocate,
the Spirit of truth, to be with us forever.

May your Holy Spirit abide with us always,
leading us, keeping us steadfast in bearing witness,
and faithful in keeping Christ's commandments.

We ask this through the Lord Jesus,
our Passover and our peace,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from Prayer for Sundays and Seasons, Year A Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Gospel

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

Reflection

During the Easter season, we celebrate the gift of the Spirit. The Spirit is a gift that changes everything.

The gospel for today suggests that there should be a *difference* between someone who has received the gift of the Spirit and someone who has not. How can you tell the difference?

Think about this: You can't tell if an egg is raw or hard-boiled just by looking at it. They all look the same. But if you spin an egg on a table, the raw egg will spin slowly and stop quickly. The hard-boiled egg will spin fast and keep on spinning.

We all look the same from the outside. But just as there is a difference in the way the hard-boiled egg and the raw egg spin, there should be a way to tell the difference between the Christian who has received the Spirit and the non-Christian.

Could anyone tell the difference in you? How do they tell the difference?

(Adapted from *The Little White Book, Diocese of Saginaw, MI, Monday, Sixth Week of Easter 2020*)

Challenge: Love Christ by finding ways this week to love those at home with you, those in your community/neighborhood, and the poor.

Let Us Pray

For the Church: May the Holy Spirit purify, strengthen and sustain us to teach and keep the commandments of the Lord...we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all doctors, nurses, health workers, volunteers and chaplains whose own lives are at risk to save others: May they recognize their work as a participation in God's healing love of his people ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor and homeless, for widows and orphans, and for the forgotten of society: May God's commands guide us at finding ways to become more compassionate, merciful, and loving, seeking justice for all our neighbors. ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the unemployed and small businesses: May God calm their fears, guide them to resources that will sustain them, and help them to be open to others who wish to support them... we pray to the Lord . . . Lord, hear our prayer.

For a new spirit in our personal interactions: May we speak with reverence and gentleness to one another, recognizing that we have become sisters and brothers in Christ ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick: May God's healing Spirit raise them to a new and more abundant life; we pray for Art Campbell, Jimmie Gorski, David Kemeza, Julia Small, Dave Thacker, for those struggling with mental illness, those ravaged by an addiction and those suffering from COVID-19 ... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our Mothers who are living and whose names have been enrolled in our Mother's Day Novena: May God bless them with every good gift and fill their lives with his peace... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all our Mothers who are deceased, and whose names have been enrolled in our Mother's Day Novena: May the Risen Lord Jesus grant them rest from their labors and welcome them into the Kingdom of God our Father... we pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

Closing Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and
you will renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has instructed the hearts of your faithful by
the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the same
Holy Spirit we may have right judgment in all things
and evermore rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.