

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

6th Sunday of Easter (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 48:20

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

FIRST READING: Acts 15:1-2. 22-29

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials.

PSALM: Ps 66:2-3.5-6.8.R.v4

**R) Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the people praise you.**

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)**

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)**

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:

Apocalypse 21:10-14. 22-23

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 14:23

**Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will
keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall
come to him.'**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 14:23-29

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Jn 14:15-16

**If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send
you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**



GOSPEL REFLECTION



"I am going to the Father," Jesus says; and at the same time, "I am coming back to you"; for if you obey me, if you love me, then both the Father and I will be with you. It is a love story; not an emotional or sentimental love story, but love in its most profound and true sense: faithful love; love faithful through thick and thin. On the part of Jesus' followers, love must be obedient to the truth, to Jesus' teaching. It must be a faithful love, that endures to the end. But, "do not let your hearts be troubled, do not be afraid," for Jesus will come back, bringing his Holy Spirit. The Love of the Father and Son for each other is a living, teaching Love. It is the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who will "teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." The

Spirit introduces the human lover into the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity: the mystery of the Origin of Love which is at the same time the Origin of all created existence. "Peace I leave with you," Jesus says, because peace is the offspring of Love.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

77. Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies. Today we have a great opportunity to express our innate sense of fraternity, to be Good Samaritans who bear the pain of other people's troubles rather than fomenting greater hatred and resentment. Like the chance traveller in the parable, we need only have a pure and simple desire to be a people, a community, constant and tireless in the effort to include, integrate and lift up the fallen. We may often find ourselves succumbing to the mentality of the violent, the blindly ambitious, those who spread mistrust and lies. Others may continue to view politics or the economy as an arena for their own power plays. For our part, let us foster what is good and place ourselves at its service.



Golden Thoughts on Death



It is not to think black but golden thoughts that we think of death. Even among an abundance of graces, sometimes we are seized by the sense of the loneliness of exile on earth, and we find ourselves wanting to say again with Paul: 'I should like to depart and be with Christ, which is a far better thing,' or 'We would rather leave our home in the body and go to live with the Lord.'

The more we appreciate and go into the depths of suffering, the more we also understand that death is the ultimate offering of ourselves as 'royal priests' here on earth and, therefore, the culmination of our lives. For whoever loves and knows what it means to love, it is the desired moment.

I would like to explain what I mean. It is really 'desired' in the sense that gold is desired and smoke is not. In short, a moment kissed by God, as Jesus crucified is kissed.

Our Christian brothers and sisters who have died and have lived the moment of death know what it is. Oh! how often we would like someone to have come and told us something about this 'passing' ...

But perhaps - no certainly, because this, too, is love - it is better that each one of us should go through this unique experience in life: it has more value and ... for the little suffering, for the little faith we have in God's love for us in those moments, then for all eternity we will be with him.

Chiara Lubich

