

10 MAY 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OPENING HYMN

Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart,
And give him praise (x2)
Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart,
Your voices raise (x2)

***Give glory and honour and power unto Him
Jesus, the name above all names.***

He the Lord is mighty, our Creator we belong to Him,
We all belong to Him.
O that all of us today would listen to His voice
With open minds and with our hearts

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R/

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Or

Alleluia!

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:4-9

GOSPEL: John 14:1-12

REFLECTION:

We Christians have every reason to be grateful to God for having given us the faith. And we should show this gratitude, by our love of neighbour as the first Christians did. As humans, we are bound to have our fair share of differences, whether with the Church or our Community. However, when we see the growth of the first Christian community (Acts 6:1-7), and how they sorted out in a peaceful manner, the problems that inevitably arose, that should stand out as an example for each of us today.

St Peter is speaking to each one of us today (1 Peter 2:4-9). We are called to be saints. We have the means of becoming saints, for Christ has made us his brothers and heirs of heaven. Let us never forget it, we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God’s own people.” What more could God have done for us? And how little he asks in return.

Our Gospel today contains part of Jesus’ discourse at the last supper (John 14:1-12). He consoles his friends who are saddened at the thought of his going. He tells them that he is going to prepare a place for them. Jesus assures us that ultimately all of us have a home to go to, namely the Father’s House. He even says that he has gone ahead of us to prepare a place for us in that house. What a tremendous reason for hope.

(Extracts from *THE SUNDAY READINGS* (Cycle A) by Fr Kevin O’Sullivan, O.F.M., and *SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY LITURGIES* (Year A) by Flor McCarthy, S.D.B.)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us give praise to God our Father for having given us his Son Jesus to be our Way, our Truth and our Life as we place before him our needs:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and Religious, that they may be committed servants of the Lord, helping build God’s temple here on earth, which is the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

For Government leaders, that they take their responsibility seriously, of dedicated service to societies and communities. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those in the frontline of offering care to those affected by this pandemic, that their efforts be recognized and acknowledged. Let us pray to the Lord.

For ourselves, that we may all follow Christ, the only one who can lead us to the Father and to eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: Father, we believe that your Son has gone ahead of us to prepare a place for us in the your house. We ask you to prepare us also for that happy place. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour’s command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord’s Prayer together) Our Father, ...

CLOSING PRAYER

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world. We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

We see Christ with eyes of the heart
With our hands we touch the word of life
What we see and hear we declare
That together the life of Father and Son we may share.

*For our Saviour has conquered: Alleluia He has conquered
Over death victorious: Alleluia victorious
Over evil he'll triumph, Alleluia He'll triumph
Jesus Reigns over all.*

See what love God showed to us all,
We are called his children and so we are!
God is love and love casts out fear.
We'll be like unto him, for we'll see him when he appears.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)