



18 May 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter – C



Introduction:

The heart of Christian witness is love — not as the world sees it, but as Christ lived it: sacrificial and enduring. In today's Gospel, Jesus commands us to love one another as He has loved us — a love that marks us as His own. In Acts, Paul and Barnabas strengthen the early Church not with power, but through encouragement amid trials. In a world divided by fear, we are called anew to help build a new heaven and earth by living this radical love

Readings:	First Reading:	Acts 14:21b–27
	Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 145:8–9, 10–11, 12–13
	Second Reading:	Rev 21:1–5a
	Gospel:	Jn 13:31–33a, 34–35

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: God our Father, You sent Your Son to show us what it means to love. Strengthened by His commandment and nourished by His Word, we now bring our prayers before You, saying: **Loving Father, hear our prayer**

That our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, with all Bishops and Priests, may be strengthened by the love of Christ and continue to lead the Church with wisdom and compassion, making her a visible sign of hope, healing, and mercy in our world... *(Brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

That leaders of nations may work to create a world where justice and peace flourish, and where every human life is treated with dignity... *(Brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

That those who suffer from violence, rejection, or grief may find comfort in the promise of a new heaven and new earth, where God will wipe away every tear... *(Brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

That we, as a community of faith, may grow in love for one another — not in word alone but in concrete acts of kindness, forgiveness, and service... *(Brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

That God, who knows the silent prayers of our hearts, may graciously grant them according to His will... *(Longer silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

Celebrant: Father, in Your love, You have made all things new through the death and resurrection of Your Son. Help us to walk in His ways, and to reflect His love in all we do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**