

The Collect and Readings for The Sixth Sunday of Easter

- Rogation Sunday

The Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us
he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ
gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

Today's Readings

First Reading Acts 10:44-48

Peter has crossed the threshold into the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. As he speaks to those present, the Holy Spirit descends on all, Jew and Gentile alike.

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

Our faith in Jesus Christ binds us together as children of God and makes all things possible.

Gospel John 15:9-17

Jesus has just declared he is the true vine, his followers the branches, his Father the gardener. Now Jesus gives the great command: to love each other as we have been loved.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁴⁴While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

² With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.

³ The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown
in the sight of the nations.

⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁵ Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.

⁶ Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.

⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world,
and the peoples with equity.

**The Lord has made known his victory
in the sight of the nations.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of John

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.