

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 97)

ANTIPHON: The Lord has revealed to nations his saving power.

RESPONSE: The Lord has revealed to nations his saving power.

LECTOR: Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **R.**

LECTOR: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Or

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) 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.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4: 7-10; John 15: 9-17

NEXT WEEK (Ascension of the Lord, Year B) Acts: 1:1-11; Ps 46; Ephesians 1: 17-23 or 4: 1-13; Mark 16: 15-20

*Empathy
in action*

Prayer is Life

In the Prayer for Life podcast titled Prayer and Compassion, Redemptorist priest David Hore CSSR emphasises the importance of a compassionate approach to our spiritual lives, where empathy becomes action, and the act of listening becomes a profound gesture of support. <https://majellan.media/prayer-is-life-podcast/>



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*The offer of
God's friendship
is priceless*



5 May 2024 6th Sunday Easter Year B

Our gospel reading this week continues the series of readings from Jesus' final teachings before his death – his Farewell Discourses – as given to us in the Gospel of John. These are the teachings Jesus gave to his disciples immediately after the Last Supper in Jerusalem on the night before his crucifixion.

In last week's gospel, Jesus describes his relationship to his disciples like that of a vine and its branches, stressing how vital, close and deep is the interconnection between them. In that gospel reading, Jesus urges his disciples: "Abide in me as I abide in you." To abide means to remain, to make a home in, to endure.

Today's gospel follows on from that teaching and continues the theme of abiding but augments it. Here Jesus speaks of the relationship between himself and his disciples in even more profound and intimate terms than that of the life-giving vine and its fruitful branches. Now he stresses that the relationship is one of love. Again, he uses the word "abide," but now he urges his disciples to abide in his love.

Just as Jesus abides in the Father's love, we are to abide in Jesus's love. Notice Jesus' stress on love. "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."

Jesus again stresses love when he goes on to explain: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Love is his command to us as his disciples; we are to love as he loved.

The focus on abiding in love leads to an understanding of our relationship to Jesus as one of friendship. Jesus explains: "You are my friends if you do what I command you." In this way Jesus reveals God's offer of friendship to each and every one of us.

Three hundred years ago, St Alphonsus Ligouri, the founder of the Redemptorists, wrote extensively on this wonderful idea of God as a friend, and these writings have been compiled into a book, *Praying to God as a Friend*. Alphonsus encourages us to converse with God as a dear and loving friend: "Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends.

Speak to Him often of your business, your plans, your troubles, your fears – of everything that concerns you. Converse with Him confidently and frankly; for God is not wont to speak to a soul that does not speak to Him."

God's offer of friendship is waiting. It is a truly priceless treasure that is freely offered and freely given. It is up to us to respond positively.

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