

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 14:23
Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Jn 14:23-29
A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.
*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and
remind you of all I have said to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples:
‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my
words. And my word is not my own;
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift
to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:
I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad
to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

THE SAVING WORD

25 MAY 2025

ULTIMATE UNION

In today's Gospel we become privileged
listeners to Jesus' prayer to God. The prayer
sums up John's theology of ultimate union
and Jesus ongoing promise to be with the
Gospel's audience, with us. Today's selection
also reaches beyond the present and into the
future.

This is a powerfully rich Gospel for the Easter
Season. As we reflect on the implications of
Jesus' resurrection, Jesus prays that we will
come to experience the heart of ultimate union
that exists between Jesus and the Father. In
later Trinitarian theology, this prayer will be
considered the highpoint of the believers'
experience of God and the foundation for a
later theology of the Trinity. In a sense, we
become part of the divine 'dance' (the word
is 'perichoresis') within the persons of the
Trinity.

Today's Gospel invites us to celebrate our
union with God, through Jesus' resurrection,
with each other, our natural world and the
whole of the Cosmos. It is for this reason
that a second theme in the Gospel concerns
mission. Jesus' followers are sent on mission to
the world to reflect and enact this experience
of divine communion.

Finally, we are reminded that the love which
the Father has for Jesus becomes the kind of
love which Jesus has for us. And how powerful
is that! What a wonderful Easter day this
Gospel invites us into.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING Acts 15:1-2,22-29
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
*It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves
not to burden you beyond what is essential.*

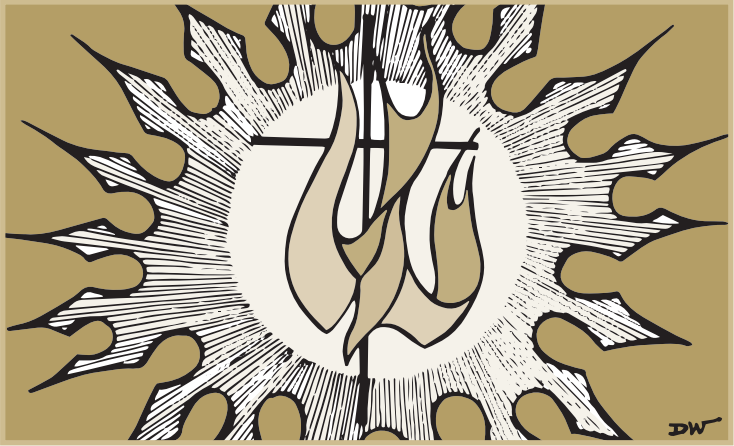
Some men came down from Judaea and taught
the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves
circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot
be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after
Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument
with these men it was arranged that Paul and
Barnabas and others of the church should go up
to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the
apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose
delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and
Barnabas; the whole church concurred with
this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and
Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood,
and gave them this letter to take with them:
'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send
greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in
Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that
some of our members have disturbed you
with their demands and have unsettled your
minds. They acted without any authority from
us, and so we have decided unanimously to
elect delegates and to send them to you with
Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who
have dedicated their lives to the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending
you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word
of mouth what we have written in this letter.
It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by
ourselves not to saddle you with any burden
beyond these essentials: you are to abstain
from food sacrificed to idols, from blood,
from the meat of strangled animals and from
fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what
is right. Farewell.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3,5-6,8. R. v. 4
R. O God, let all the nations praise you!
(or Alleluia!)

1. 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.**



2. 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.**
3. 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 Apoc 21:10-14, 22-23
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of
an enormous high mountain and showed me
Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from
God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory
of God and glittered like some precious jewel of
crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a
great height, and had twelve gates; at each of
the twelve gates there was an angel, and over
the gates were written the names of the twelve
tribes of Israel; on the east there were three
gates, on the north three gates, on the south
three gates, and on the west three gates. The
city walls stood on twelve foundation stones,
each one of which bore the name of one of the
twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since
the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were
themselves the temple, and the city did not
need the sun or the moon for light, since it was
lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb
was a lighted torch for it.

■ **The word of the Lord.**