

Readings + The Sixth Sunday of Easter, year B + May 5, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking to the centurion Cornelius and his family and friends,⁷ the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The believers from among the Jewish people who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, ⁴⁶ for 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?”

⁴⁸ So Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then Cornelius and the others⁷ invited Peter to stay for several days.

Psalmody Psalm 98

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

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

Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey God’s commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey the commandments of God, which are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This 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.

Holy Gospel John 15:9-17

We continue in a section of John that only occurs in this Gospel, as with the past few weeks.

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

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I 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.

¹⁶ You 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 for in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”