

# CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*This is a celebration of the Word to aid your worship this Sunday, alone or with family. If possible, place a simple cross or crucifix prominently in the room and light one or more candles. You can also place an image of the Virgin Mary there if possible. As a family, choose the one who leads the prayer, and someone to do the readings.*

*Whoever leads the prayer can say:*

When Philip “proclaimed the Christ” to the crowds, “with one accord” they “paid attention to what was said.” Their full acceptance of the Word of God provoked Peter and John to go to them and lay hands on them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit. This fulfills what Jesus promised us the night before he died: “The Father will give you the Spirit of truth. He will be in you.” The “reason for our hope” is a Person we have met: Christ the Lord, whom we sanctify in our hearts and whose commandments we keep. Just as the crowds today are transfixed by the attraction of Philip, so we are captivated by the One who has loved us and revealed himself to us. It is the source of “great joy.”

## **SIGN OF THE CROSS**

*After a moment of silence, let everyone begin by making the Sign of the Cross:*

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **HYMN**

*Choose an appropriate hymn.*

*We place ourselves before the Lord, beginning with an act of contrition:*

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

*The following are the readings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter.*

**A reading from  
the Acts of the Apostles**

**8:5-8, 14-17**

**P**HILIP WENT DOWN to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they

might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

—————•PSALM 66•—————

**R** (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

**Or:** Alleluia.

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,  
sing praise to the glory of his name;  
proclaim his glorious praise.

Say to God, “How tremendous are your deeds!” **R**

“Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,  
sing praise to your name!”

Come and see the works of God,  
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam. **R**

He has changed the sea into dry land;  
through the river they passed on foot.

Therefore let us rejoice in him.

He rules by his might forever. **R**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare  
what he has done for me.

Blessed be God who refused me not  
my prayer or his kindness! **R**

**A reading from**  
**the first Letter of Saint Peter**

3:15-18

**B**ELOVED: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia.** Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,/ and my Father will love him and we will come to him. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

*I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

**A reading from  
the holy Gospel according to John**

**14:15-21**

**J**ESUS SAID TO his disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Allow for a few minutes of silence and meditation. In a family, the leader could offer some words of consolation and reflection at this moment, such as: “Lord, we love you and desire to keep your commandments. In this difficult moment in our nation and in our world, we beg you to renew us with the new outpouring of your Holy Spirit, our Advocate. We trust that you will never abandon us. We will never be orphaned, because you are our Father and you never change and you never stop loving us. Help us to love you and to remain faithful to your commandments all the days of our life.”*

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M E D I T A T I O N O F T H E D A Y

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*Why We Keep the Commandments*

A Christian is a disciple of the Lord who keeps his commandments, and if not...Jesus has said openly: He cannot be my disciple.

A Christian seeks God’s will, the happiness of others, and...the Church’s presence in today’s world. A Christian loves the cross of Christ and carries it in his or her life. A Christian is a living Credo, continuing Jesus’ work here on earth, and making the song of hope resound in the midst of the world’s trials.

Whatever difficulties may arise, the Christian remains God’s heir.

For love of Christ, a Christian accepts hatred if it comes....

The Holy Spirit dwells in and enlightens a Christian.

A Christian who is continually renewed makes Jesus’ revolution of love alive in his or her life. With the Church, a Christian lives the Passion of Christ in union with Mary, in the midst of critics, opposition, and that suffering which is destructive.

In a word, a Christian is a faithful reproduction of the life of Christ who causes all who see him or her to say, “There is Christ!”

VENERABLE FRANCIS XAVIER NGUYỄN VĂN THUẬN

*Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận († 2002) was imprisoned by the Vietnamese government for thirteen years.*

## **INTERCESSIONS**

*The leader can begin with these words:*

The Lord has promised not to leave us orphans. Counting on the boundless mercy of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we now pray:

*R* Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Church will stand before the world without stain or blemish, holy and obedient to God's Word. Let us pray to the Lord. *R*

That divisions in the world will be healed, violence will cease, and the peace of God's Kingdom will bless the earth. Let us pray to the Lord. *R*

For blessings on police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and all those who protect us at the risk of their own lives. Let us pray to the Lord. *R*

For the sick, the suffering, and the unemployed, that the Lord will comfort them. Let us pray to the Lord. *R*

For the grace this week to keep Christ as Lord in our hearts, ready to suffer for the sake of righteousness. Let us pray to the Lord. *R*

For an end to the coronavirus pandemic, for God's mercy on all who are suffering and dying, and for strength and protection on all healthcare workers dedicated to fighting it. Let us pray to the Lord. *R*

### **Personal intentions**

Our Father....

### ***An Act of Spiritual Communion:***

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

*May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and lead us to everlasting life. And may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.*

*To conclude the celebration, you can sing or recite the following or another suitable hymn. Turn and face an image of Mary, if you have one.*



**Q**ueen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,  
has risen as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

*V* Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,  
alleluia!

*R* For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia!

**Or:**

*R*egina caeli, laetare, alleluia,  
quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,  
resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia;  
ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

*V* Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.

*R* Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

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