



Hosanna



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SUNDAY LITURGY

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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year C

INTRODUCTION

The epitome of Christianity is in the new commandment of Love. His command is utterly short and unambiguous "Love one another, as I have loved you". This command is what can assure Christianity's effective continuance. This radiant love lived by Christians is the endorsement of all teaching, dogma, and moral precepts of the Church of Christ.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia. (*Isa 48:20*)

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

One must pass through many troubles During the apostolic journey from

which Paul is returning he encountered this especially among the Jews who had closed the doors on gentiles, he in turn says 'God has declared open the door of faith to the Gentiles'.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29.

Some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren, with the following letter: "The brethren, both the apostles and the elders, to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greeting. Since we have heard that some persons from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us in assembly to choose men and send them to you

with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (67)

R. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

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. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

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. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

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. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

SECOND READING

The Holy city, which descends from heaven to earth, is symbolic of the dwelling of God and Man together;

something that is eternal but is now becoming visible.

A reading from the Book of Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

In the Spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

ALLELUIA (Jn 14:23)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said, “If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.” Alleluia!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John 14:23-29

Jesus said to his disciples, “If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. “These things

I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe."

HOMILY NICENE CREED PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Living, loving God, your love and mercy sustains this world retaining its beauty and life on earth. Restore the new creation in Jesus Christ all that is disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed that they may appear in justice, love and peace.

Response: LORD, IN YOUR LOVE, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

1. Let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis, Archbishop Bernard Moras, Bishops, Priests, Religious and all who work for God's Kingdom, that they may be rekindled in their love for God and the mission entrusted to them, Lord hear our prayer

2. Let us pray as believers in God, to be sensitive to the Love of God and be open to receive strength from God alone and remain steadfast in faith and to love one another. Lord hear our prayer.

3. Let us pray that families in our parish be a source of love and fellowship and the children receive abundant love from their parents, siblings share their filial bonding and establish a home of love and prayer. Lord hear our prayer.

4. Let us pray for those in homes for the aged, orphanages and the abandoned that they may receive true love; feel accepted and cared in a society that is becoming increasingly selfish and consumeristic. Lord hear our prayer.

5. Let us pray that all the religions in this world may become channels of love and peace, to foster brotherhood and healing instead of asserting their supremacy and narrow mindedness. Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: God of love, open our hearts to your power moving around us, to love you and to love our neighbour, to be a blessing for others and in bringing the promise of God's Kingdom through our words and deeds, we ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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 forever; alleluia. (Jn 14:15-16)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Love is both, the most powerful and most powerless. It alone can conquer that final and most impregnable stronghold which is the human heart. It is most powerless because it can do nothing except by consent. God does not ask us to love Him without God loving us. The Trinitarian God is love and dwells in the heart of the worshipper filled with Love.

Love entails obedience. There is a tacit undertaking in us to comply with the other because of love. One would do anything for the sake of the other person because of love. When Jesus says, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word" we comply to the teachings of Jesus because we love him. Our love for Jesus is total surrender in obedience to his teachings. The manifestation of Christ is made only to the one who really loves Him, and the proof of love to Him is not by emotional display but by submission to His will. As Christians we are willing to do spectacular

things for Christ, but unwilling to be involved in simple obedience. When we obey, Christ will increasingly unveil his heart to us.

Love is Giving. The two beautiful acts of Jesus is his self-giving for our everlasting living through his Body and Blood, the second act of Jesus is the promise of the Holy Spirit "from now on the Helper, and the Holy Spirit whom the father will send in my name". God does not want us to be spiritual orphans, instead his presence will go forth with us by receiving the Eucharist and sanctified by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We receive all this because Jesus loves us.

Love bequeaths peace. The primary gift of the Risen Lord was Peace. The peace offered by Jesus in this passage is before his passion and death and the peace truly given was after resurrection. The peace of Christ characterizes two things. First, it is a peace based upon one's intimate knowledge of God, who is in control of all things. Second, this peace is entirely independent of circumstances. That is the promise of Jesus, peace I give you, not as the world gives peace as, do not be troubled, do not be afraid'. This experience of peace will come only when we are in love with Jesus.

- Rev. Fr. Amarnath Dinesh Roy

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+ Bernard Moras

Archbishop of Bangalore

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Paalanaa Bhavana

5, Nandidurg Road, Jayamahall Extension, Benson Town Post,
Bangaluru 560046,