

## Order for Liturgy of the Word

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

#### **Entrance Antiphon: Leader**

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

Cf. Is 48:20



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

Sisters and Brothers, God invites us to hear his Word. Let us bless him for his goodness. Blessed be God forever. **Response:** Blessed be God forever.

#### **Introduction: Leader**

We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. One with our sisters and brothers and with the entire Church, we will listen to God's Word and join in prayer. As we prepare to hear of God's love in Christ, let us acknowledge that the Lord is the source of pardon and strength.

#### **All: *The Confiteor***

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

#### ***The Gloria***

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men of good will. We praise You. We bless You. We adore you. We glorify You. We give You thanks for Your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God the almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have

mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Leader:** Let us pray

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honor 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. Amen

**For today's scriptural readings go to: [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) or cut and paste:**

<http://cms.usccb.org/calendar/index.cfm?showLit=1&action=month>

**First reading**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Second reading**

**Gospel acclamation:**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia**

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

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel proclamation**

## All—Profession of Faith:

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered  
death and was buried, and rose  
again on the third day in accord-  
ance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the  
giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son,

Who with the Father and the Son is  
adored and glorified, who has spoken  
through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins and I look  
forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the Faithful—Leader

**Introduction:** Jesus invites us to keep his commandments out of love for him, who loved us even unto death and who loves us for eternity and so we pray in obedience and with confidence:

**Intentions:** For government and business leaders: that God will inspire them to develop policies to protect the health and well-being of the human family and promote the renewal of the economy; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: that we may grow in our awareness that Jesus is in us and see the hand of God in the people, in the events in our lives, and in the created world around us; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the renewal of God's Spirit in our hearts: that God will stir up into a flame the gift of the Spirit so that we may build up the Body of Christ and bring forth God's reign in the world; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are struggling financially: that God will calm their fears, guide them to resources that will sustain them, and help them to be open to others who wish to support them in their time of need; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick: that God's healing Spirit will ease their suffering, give them strength and hope; and may those who have died experience the fullness of life in Christ and live in God's presence forever; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Prayer:** Almighty God, hear and grant our prayers, and grant our world the peace which can only come from you; this we ask through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Leader:** In the love of Christ, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Leader: 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.

## **All—Spiritual Communion:**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. 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. Amen.

## **Leader: 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 the paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord.

**Response:** Amen.

## **Blessing—making the sign of the cross:**

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

**Response:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

**Response:** Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

### **First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17**

The Acts of the Apostles traces the expansion of the Church's mission from Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). The campaign undertaken by Philip, one of the seven, after the martyrdom of Stephen marks, for Luke, a decisive stage in the execution of this plan (Samaria).

Equally important for Luke is the concern that each successive stage should receive the imprimatur of the original Jerusalem community and its apostles. Hence the curious anomaly that in this story baptism does not convey the gift of the Spirit, as is normally the case in Acts, but has to await the arrival of Peter and John to lay hands on the Samaritan converts.

The author of Luke-Acts knows nothing of "confirmation" as a separate rite, distinct from baptism, performed by the apostles or their successors. Rather, he is concerned with one of his major theological themes—the maintenance of the ties between the expanding mission of the Church and the Mother Church in Jerusalem as the center of salvation history.

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18**

The baptismal material in the first part of 1 Peter, which runs through 1 Peter 4:12, includes warnings of possible persecution (after 1 Peter 4:12 the tone changes and the persecution becomes actual).

The newly baptized, thrilled at their admission to all the privileges of the people of God as detailed in last Sunday's Second Reading, are here reminded that it will not be smooth sailing all the time. They must know what they are in for.

Indeed, how could it be otherwise, since the Christian life is a following in the footsteps of Christ? That is why the passage ends with a quotation from an early Christian hymn about the death and resurrection of Christ— to give them hope.

### **Gospel: John 14:15-21**

The Christian life is not merely an external observance of Christ's commandments but an intense relationship with the three Persons of the Trinity, each with a specific role to play in this relationship. The Spirit conveys the presence of the Son, who reveals the Father. But this intense personal relationship is not dissolved into mere emotion; it is concretely and soberly manifested in a life of obedience to Christ's commandments. This is how we remain and thrive in this relationship.

The departure of Jesus, his Ascension which we will celebrate next Sunday, does not mean that he is now absent. On the contrary, it means his ever-renewed presence through the coming of the Spirit to us. This is the Easter message of joy in today's Gospel reading!

*Preaching the Lectionary:*

*The Word of God for the Church Today*

Reginald H. Fuller and Daniel Westberg. Liturgical Press. 1984. (Revised Edition).