

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Send Us Your Spirit

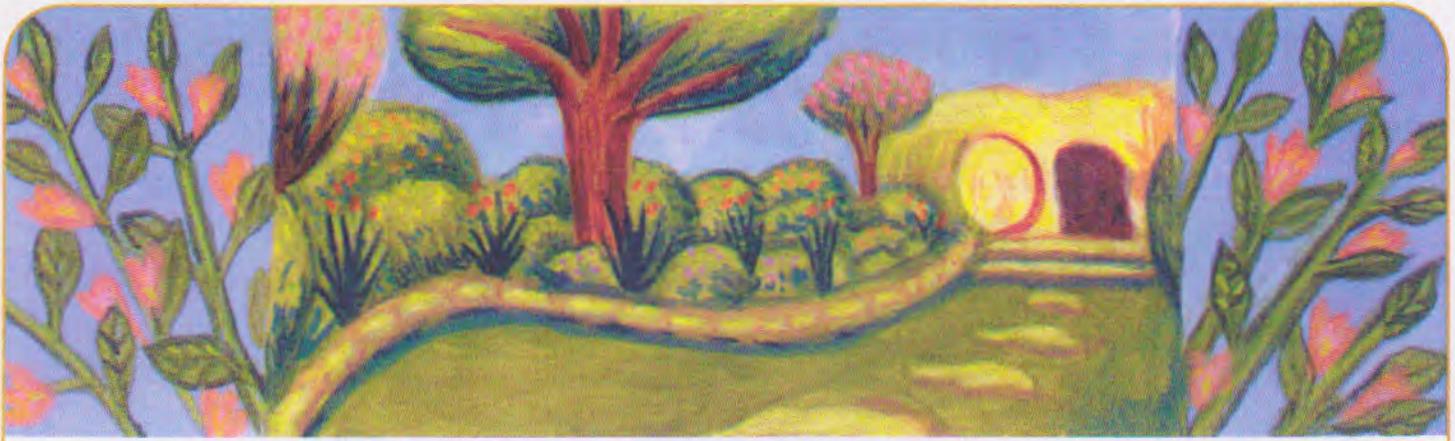
Father of all creation,  
your Son told us  
that the way to love him  
is to keep your Commandments,  
and for those who do,  
the Advocate will come.  
Give us wisdom and strength  
to understand and follow the Law  
so we may receive the Holy Spirit.  
Fill us with the gifts of the Spirit,  
so that we too, like your disciples,  
may be sent out to testify to the  
Resurrection of your Son.  
Let our Easter alleluias rise up  
within us,  
and spur us on to service.  
We ask this 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.

**Sunday, May 25, 2014**  
**Gift of the Holy Spirit**

Today's Readings: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17; Psalm 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20 (1); 1 Peter 3:15–18; John 14:15–21. The early Church wrestled with difficult questions, such as who could be a member of the Church. Through dialogue, conversation, prayer, and the workings of the Holy Spirit, all were called to membership. The early Christians had courage to face conflicts amidst the demands of a pagan world. Fidelity to Christ, the Gospel, and fundamental Christian values required costly, even heroic, sacrifices at times. In all cases, gentleness and reverence won out in the end.

Similar challenges persist in the Church today. Conflicts and factions abound, and yet we are reminded in the Gospel and in the teachings of the Church that we are called to

build up the Body of Christ, to become a sacrament of unity. Today's Gospel asks us to follow the commandments, and when we do so, the Father tells us that Jesus will live in us. The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, a spirit of truth, continues to lead the Church toward that unity. This Advocate of truth can often seem hidden when we try to work for justice. It is important that we give the Spirit a chance to be the active, transforming agent at work in the Church and in the world, changing not only bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, but also changing us, that we might be broken and poured out for the life of the world. We must do all that we can to promote this unity as we gather at the banquet table of the Lord.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, May 26**

**Saint Philip Neri**

Philip Neri, who died in 1595, is the founder of the Congregation of the Oratory, a community of secular priests. Inspired by the work of this congregation while visiting Italy, in 1848, Cardinal Newman founded the first English Oratory in England. In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we meet Lydia and her household, who were baptized by Paul and Timothy after opening their hearts to God. Lydia, a seller of purple cloth, invited Paul and Timothy to stay at her house as they together worked to establish the church in Philippi. Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b (see 4A); John 15:26—16:4a.

**Tuesday, May 27**

**Saint Augustine of Canterbury**

Augustine of Canterbury, who died in 605, was the first Archbishop of Canterbury. As a missionary, he worked to purify, rather than destroy, pagan temples and customs. He paved the way for their rites and festivals to become Christian feasts, while at the same time retaining local custom as far as possible. In their missionary zeal, Paul and Silas brought the man guarding their prison cell (along with his family) to Christ through Baptism. Talk about this Scripture passage at the dinner table tonight. Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8 (7c); John 16:5–11.

**Wednesday, May 28**

**One in Christ**

Two of the great mysteries that the Church reflects on in Easter Time are the Resurrection and the Second Coming of Christ. The community of the baptized is linked to the Communion of Saints, a dynamic experience of Church membership at the table of the Lord. St. Augustine of Hippo reminds us in Sermon 272 that it is the gift of our own life that we lay on the altar. When we hear the words “the Body

of Christ” and “the Blood of Christ,” it is not only Christ in the Eucharistic species that will be changed, but Christ in us and in one another. Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14 (Alleluia); John 16:12–15.

**Thursday, May 29**

**If Celebrating the Ascension Today**

Today's solemnity is not about the absence of Jesus, of saying “farewell,” or extinguishing the flame of the Paschal candle, but rather a celebration of Jesus's enduring presence with the Church. Decorate your home prayer space with spring flowers today, with attention to your candle, a reminder of the Paschal candle at church. Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20.

**Friday, May 30**

**Christian Missionaries**

Priscilla and Aquila were first-century Christian missionaries, co-workers, and disciples who worked alongside of Paul. Priscilla has been described as one of the first women pastors and missionaries in the early Church. We can look to their mutuality in ministry and their leadership as a model for men and women to join together as teachers of the Gospel. Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7 (8a); John 16:20–23.

**Saturday, May 31**

**Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

This feast is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The words of today's Gospel, proclaimed by Mary, are known as the *Magnificat*. These verses of Luke, chapter 1, verses 46–55, are prayed each day by the Church during Evening Prayer. If you haven't already done so, consider praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and take these words of Mary's on your lips each day as you work to bring Jesus to others. Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a or Romans 12:9–16; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6 (6); Luke 1:39–56.



© Liturgy Training Publications. 1-800-933-1800. Written by Michael R. Prendergast. Illustrated by Jim Janknegt. Scripture quotations are from *The New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright © 1993 and 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL). All rights reserved. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Permission to publish granted by the Archdiocese of Chicago, on October 24, 2013.

*Keeping the Seasons*

Reproducibles for Lent-Triduum-Easter 2014