

# SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Unity

Lord, you are blessed and holy  
and you know our hearts well.  
In the Paschal Mystery of Christ,  
you revealed your love for us and  
showed us the path to unity.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
to teach us how to be faithful disciples.  
Place your living Word within our hearts  
so that we may work to build up  
your Kingdom  
and seek unity amongst your people.  
Watch over our community, especially  
those who struggle in faith,  
and help us to remain in your love  
and forever announce the Good News  
of salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 13, 2018

## Love Unites

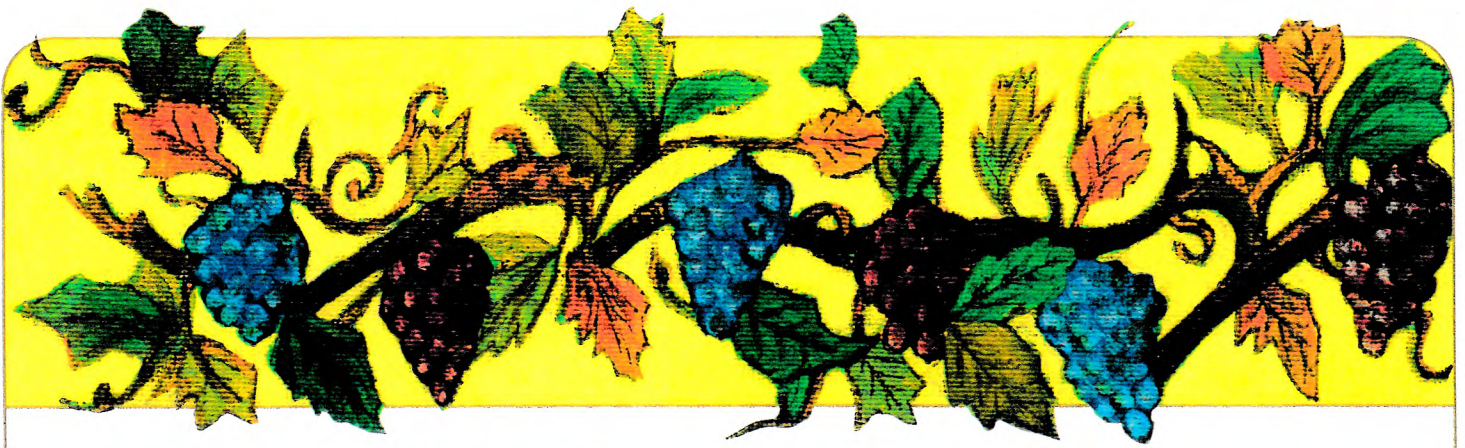


*Today's Readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20a, 20c–26; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20; 1 John 4:11–16; John 17:11b–19.* Both the Psalm and the Second Reading reflect on God's love for us and invite us to share that love within the world. However, we can only share love if we are united to Love and remain in God. In the Psalm, we place upon our lips words of praise or blessing to God for all the love and mercy he has poured forth on his people (vv. 11–12). The first stanza indicates that one's entire being, the very life breath, gives all in praise to God. This is a powerful image. Think of a time when you have stood in awe of God. On rare occasions, I have found myself tongue-tied in God's presence and my whole being shuddered with joy and attempted to bless God. The love of

God unites us to the whole Body of Christ and transforms us and calls us to love others.

In the Gospel, Jesus pleads with the Father to keep us, the disciples, united in love as we continue the journey on earth. Like the early disciples, we know, even though Jesus reigns in heaven, that the community of faith remains strong. The community did not dissolve when Christ ascended to heaven. We remain strong because of the love the Holy Spirit pours out upon us. Have you noticed someone in your community who especially needs love and mercy? This week, sit quietly with the Second Reading and listen to where God is calling you to love.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 14

#### St. Matthias

The First Reading tells the story of how Matthias joined the ranks of the Twelve. In the days following the Ascension, the Apostles decided to fill the place Judas had taken. Like Matthias, each of us has been chosen by the Holy Spirit to be followers of Christ. We are counted among the saints who make known God's salvation. Have you ever taken time to consider your role as a disciple? *Today's Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; John 15:9-17.*

### Tuesday, May 15

#### Glorify the Lord

Today's Gospel is part of a long prayer Jesus makes to the Father. Jesus is aware that the time has come for him to be glorified. Throughout his ministry, he has been preparing the disciples to know and understand that he is the one who saves. To have eternal life, we must come to know the living God. In Baptism, we were united to the living God and through our work we give him glory. In your prayer today, ponder what it means to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. *Today's Readings: Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21; John 17:1-11a.*

### Wednesday, May 16

#### Teaching

Paul preaches to the presbyters of Ephesus in the First Reading. He tells them to be vigilant when he leaves because false teachers will surely pervert the Gospel message. Even today, we have false prophets among us and we must be vigilant that the Gospel is heard. Sometimes we might be the false teacher and so we too must be careful not to lead others astray. How have you shepherded another's faith? *Today's Readings: Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; John 17:11b-19.*

### Thursday, May 17

#### United in Christ

Today's Gospel continues Jesus' long prayer in chapter 17 of John's account. When read completely through, the reader gets a sense of how much Jesus cares for his people. He truly longs for the day when all will know him and be united to the Father. As you think about this Easter season, how have you grown in relationship with Christ? Like Paul, we must take courage as we bear witness within our families and communities. *Today's Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; John 17:20-26.*

### Friday, May 18

#### Feed My Lambs

In the Gospel, Jesus questions Peter three times about how much he loves him. Peter responds affirmatively and assures Jesus of his love. Like Peter, we are called to nourish God's flock. Each of us has been given gifts and talents that will help with this mission. What gifts do you bring to assist in "feeding the lambs"? Imagine yourself in Peter's place. How would you engage Jesus? *Today's Readings: Acts 25:13b-21; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; John 21:15-19.*

### Saturday, May 19

#### So Much

"There are also many other things that Jesus did." This line from the end of today's Gospel is telling. It relates that there is much about Jesus' life and ministry that we do not know. It also notes that the story of salvation is still unfolding. Let us rejoice in God's awesome gifts. Write about or draw a story of your encounter with Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20-25.*

