

# Scripture Study

Sixth Sunday of Easter– Cycle C



## Opening prayer

Acts 15:1-2,22-29

(Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8)

Revelation 21:10-14,22-23

**John 14:23-29**

## Overview of the Gospel:

- This Sunday's Gospel takes place during Jesus' discourse to his disciples at the Last Supper on the night he was betrayed (John 14—17).
- The Apostle Jude Thaddeus has just asked Jesus why his identity as the Messiah was revealed to them but not to the whole world (verse 22). It was widely believed at that time that when the Messiah came, it would be a major military/political event, evident to the whole world (Luke 19:11; Acts 1:6).
- In his answer, Jesus affirms that, indeed, everyone will see that he has come, but not in the way they expect. Indeed, in their lifetimes, Jesus did come in vindication of those who did not believe in him when the Jewish Temple was destroyed a generation later by the Romans (see Matthew 24).
- Overall, however, it will be through the love Jesus' disciples display, the powerful works and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through his presence to his Church in the Holy Eucharist that Christ, the Messiah, will be manifest to the whole world. Thus, they—and we—are to be at peace knowing that Jesus is always present with and in his people.

## Questions:

- In the First Reading, what was one of the reasons given by the leaders of the Church for resolving the issue involving the dispute about the Law (see verse 24)? Besides the apostles and elders, whose decision was this (see verse 28)?
- What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in verses John 16-17 and 25-27? What is the relationship of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to the Christian? To each other?
- How at home are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in your life? Are they more like owners or temporary guests?
- What is the difference between how *Jesus* gives peace and how the *world* does? Is the peace Jesus offers a feeling, or a relationship?
- On a scale of 1 (smooth sailing) to 10 (furious storm), what is your peace quotient? Why? Where do you find Jesus' peace? Where can you find hope in this passage?
- Of all the promises made in this chapter (John 14: 16-18; 21; 23; 26-27), which one means the most to you? Why?

**Catechism of the Catholic Church: §§ 243, 244, 260, 263, 692, 729, 1099, 2615**

## Closing Prayer

*Let us live as temples of God, so that it may be evident to all that God dwells in us. —St. Cyprian*

**Remember to read and meditate on the daily Mass readings found in the bulletin!**

# “If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him”

**Scripture:** *John 14:23-29*

*Jesus answered him, "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 Counselor, 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.*

**Meditation:** Do you know the love that surpasses all, that is stronger than death itself (Song of Songs 8:6)? In Jesus' last supper discourse he speaks of the love he has for his disciples and of his Father's love. He prepares his disciples for his imminent departure to return to his Father by exhorting them to prove their love for him through their loyalty and obedience to his word. He promises them the abiding instruction and consolation of the Holy Spirit. Saint Augustine says



*the Lord loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love. God's love for each of us is as real and tangible as the love of a mother for her child and the love of a lover who gives all for his beloved. God made us for love – to know him personally and to grow in the knowledge of his great love for us. How can we know and be assured of the love of God? The Holy Spirit helps us to grow in the knowledge of God and his great love. The Spirit enables us to experience the love of God and to be assured of the Lord's abiding presence with us (see Romans 8:35-39). The Holy Spirit also opens our ears to hear and understand the word of God. Do you listen attentively to God's word and believe it? Ask the Holy Spirit to inflame your heart with the love of God and his word.*

Do you know the peace which passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7)? Jesus grants *peace* as his gift to his disciples. What kind of peace does he offer? The *peace of Christ* is more than the absence of trouble. It includes everything which makes for our highest good. The world's approach to peace is avoidance of trouble and a refusal to face unpleasant things. Jesus offers the peace which conquers our fears and anxieties. Nothing can take us from the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. No sorrow or grief, no danger, no suffering can make it less. Jesus also speaks of his destination and ultimate triumph over the powers of evil in the world. In the eyes of the world the cross stood for shame, humiliation, and defeat. Jesus went to the cross knowing that it would lead to victory over the powers of sin and of Satan. Jesus also knew that he would return to his Father in glory. The cross brought glory to Jesus and to the Father and it is our way to glory as well. In the Cross of Christ we find true peace and reconciliation with God. Do you live in the peace of Jesus Christ?

*"Lord Jesus, in love you created me and you drew me to yourself. May I never lose sight of you nor forget your steadfast love and faithfulness. And may I daily dwell upon your word and give you praise in the sanctuary of my heart, You who are my All."*

© Don Schwager  
[www.rc.net/wcc/readings/](http://www.rc.net/wcc/readings/)