

## 56 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

When the Ascension is celebrated on the following Sunday, the second reading and the gospel given for the Seventh Sunday of Easter (see no. 60) may be used on the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

### FIRST READING

Acts 10.25-26, 34-35, 44-48

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 25 On Peter's arrival at Caesarea,  
Cornelius, a centurion of the Roman cohort, met him,  
and falling at his feet, worshipped him.
- 26 But Peter made him get up, saying,  
"Stand up; I am only a mortal."
- 34 Then Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius,  
"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,  
35 but in every nation anyone who fears him  
and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- 44 While Peter was still speaking,  
the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.
- 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded  
that the gift of the Holy Spirit  
had been poured out even on the Gentiles,  
46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.
- Then Peter said,  
47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people  
who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"  
48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 (R.2b)

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought him victory. R.
- 2 The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
- 3 He has remembered his steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel. R.
- All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.
- 4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. R.

## SECOND READING

1 John 4.7-10

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

A reading from the first letter of John.

- 7 Beloved, let us love one another,  
because love is from God;  
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 8 Whoever does not love does not know God,  
for God is love.
- 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way:  
God sent his only Son into the world  
so that we might live through him.
- 10 In this is love,  
not that we loved God but that he loved us  
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.  
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

## GOSPEL

John 15.9-17

**No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

9 “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;  
abide in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments,  
you will abide in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and abide in his love.

11 “I have said these things to you  
so that my joy may be in you,  
and that your joy may be complete.

12 This is my commandment,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 “You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15 I do not call you servants any longer,  
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;  
but I have called you friends,  
because I have made known to you everything  
that I have heard from my Father.

16 “You did not choose me but I chose you.

And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,  
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.