

Cycle A – Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2026

“I will not leave you orphaned ...”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 66)

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of God’s name;
give to God glorious praise.

**All: Say to God: “How awesome are your deeds!”
All the earth worships you;**

they sing praises to you, praises to your name.
Leader: Come and see what God has done;
God is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

**All: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my
prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.
Amen. Alleluia.**

First Reading – Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

After the stoning of Stephen, the community of believers was chased out of Jerusalem and scattered around the countryside. In this passage, Luke (author of Acts of the Apostles) demonstrates this fledgling community’s ability to adapt to new circumstances. Philip, originally appointed to wait on tables, is now found preaching and evangelizing the Samaritans, the very people so despised by the Jews. Peter and John take note, and affirm Philip’s ministry by laying hands on those converted and baptized.

1. In what ways does your parish community adapt to changing needs?
2. Recall a situation in your own life which necessitated a new faith-response.

Second Reading – 1 Peter 3:15-18

As is clearly communicated in all readings from Peter’s letter in this Easter season, the consequences of baptism in the risen Christ Jesus make moral, spiritual and behavioural demands. We hear Peter’s words on suffering and death in this joyful Easter season precisely because in Christ’s resurrection these painful realities of life have lost their power over us.

1. Recall a situation in which you were “maligned for your good conduct in Christ.”
2. Have you ever been called upon to defend your faith?

Gospel Reading – John 14:15-21

Two weeks away from the feast of Pentecost, and the Gospel is already preparing us with Jesus' promise of the "Advocate," the Spirit of Truth. By the sending the Spirit after his death and resurrection, Jesus continues to be our defense, our comfort, our guide, so that we continue to live in divine presence even in Jesus' earthly absence. It is through this Advocate, the Holy Spirit, that the disciples – and hence us – will be able to celebrate and announce Jesus as the way to God.

1. What word or phrase does your heart need most this week?
2. How do you experience the presence of the Advocate, the Spirit, in your life?
3. What features characterize the "Spirit of Truth"?

LIVING THE WORD

What is God's Challenge for me this week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercessions: For those who are adrift in life, searching for the Spirit of Truth, and for all who reach out to seekers with gentleness and reverence.
We pray to the Lord.

(Invite personal intentions, ending with "Our Father...")

Concluding Prayer:

Leader: Lord Jesus, bringer of the Spirit of Truth,
you promised not to leave us orphaned.

All: **You live within us through the love of God
and love of neighbour.**

Leader: Guide us into a clear conscience,
and upright living.

All: **Help us to abide in your love,
bearing our suffering for the sake of you,
risen Lord of the dead and the living.
Alleluia. Amen.**

Leader: Let us share with one another the peace of the risen Lord.