

Easter 5C 5/15/22

WELCOME: (COMMENTATOR)

Good morning!

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time praying with us or if you've been with us for a while. The worship aid for Mass is on our website, and we will put the address in the chat for you should you like to pull it up to support your prayer.

We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are. Even though we are in many locations, we affirm that we are one table of believers. We gather as one people, as one Body, rooted in Christ, and rooted in God's love, together.

Today's readings picture the love and encouragement to be found in Christian community. In Acts, Gentiles receive God's word and the Holy Spirit just as the Jews do. John, in his Revelation, celebrates God's final descent into our world to bring salvation and a restored world order. In the gospel, Jesus gives us a new command—love one another.

In Christ, God breaks down the dividing walls, the separations, between us and Godself, between us and each other, between us and creation. No longer are people to separate themselves for God, but to come together and love one another for God. God's desire is not destruction, but restoration. God is making all things new, and desires for us to participate in the breaking down of walls and the building up of the kingdom, the kin-dom, or community, of God.

As we embrace God's hope for us, let us gather in song.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed the good news to Derbe,
and made a considerable number of disciples,
they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.

They strengthened the spirits of the disciples
and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying,
"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships
to enter the reign of God."

They appointed elders for them in each church and,
with prayer and fasting, commended them to Christ
in whom they had put their faith.

Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia.

After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia.

From there they sailed to Antioch,
where they had been commended to the grace of God
for the work they had now accomplished.

And when they arrived, they called the church together
and reported what God had done with them
and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
God will dwell with them and they will be God's people
and God will always be with them as their God,
who will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away."

The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."

The Word of God. R/. Thanks be to God.

A reading of the Good News according to John.

Jesus continues:

“Little children, I am still with you for only a little while longer.
I give you a new commandment – to love one another.
In the same way as I have loved you,
you are also to love one another.
By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples –
that you love one another.
Just as the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Live in my love.

If you carefully attend to my command, you will live in my love,
just as I have carefully attended to my Father’s command
and live in his love.
These things I have spoken to you, so that my joy may be in you
and your joy may be complete.
My command to you is this – in this way, love one another just as I love you.
No one has greater love than this –
that one lays down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.
I have called you friends,
because I have revealed to you everything I have heard from my Father.
You did not choose me, but I chose you
and commissioned you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will live,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.
This I command you – love one another!”

The Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ.
R/. Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

COMMENTATOR

Jesus, you are the promise of eternal life who conquered the grave and demonstrated a love that is beyond our understanding. We come to you in confidence that as we pray for the needs of our world.

For whom and for what would we like to pray today? You are invited to unmute your mike. We would very much like to pray with you. Our response is, “Easter us, O God.”

When community prayer has slowed or stopped:

Lord of life, we pray for all who bring your word as a light to those in darkness
For those who bring your word of peace to those enslaved by fear. For those who
bring your word of love to those in need of comfort. Lord of love and Lord of
peace, Lord of resurrection life: Be known through our lives and through your
power.

Christ the Lord is risen, Alleluia. **Amen**

Prayer After Communion

Loving God, empower Charis to live as your Easter people, welcoming all who come to us with wide-open arms. Make this community a place of healing and hope, justice and peace. Enflame us with your Spirit so that others are drawn by your light into our circle. You have planted us, and we have taken root. Now strengthen us so that we, like Mary at the tomb, can say, "Come and see," and share our experience of the love and joy that come with knowing you. We ask this in the name of Jesus our brother, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever, **Amen**