

FIRST READING

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Gentiles also.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

When Peter arrived, Cornelius greeted him.

Then he kneeled at Peter's feet and started worshiping him.
But Peter took hold of him and said, "Stand up!
I am nothing more than a human."

Peter then said,

"Now I am certain that God treats all people alike.
God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right,
no matter what nation they come from."

While Peter was still speaking,

the Holy Spirit took control of everyone who was listening.
Some Jewish followers of the Lord had come with Peter,
and they were surprised
that the Holy Spirit had been given to Gentiles.
Now they were hearing Gentiles speaking unknown languages
and praising God.

Peter said, "These Gentiles have been given the Holy Spirit,
just as we have!"

I am certain that no one would dare stop us from baptizing them."

Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,
and they asked him to stay on for a few days.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

98:1-2, 3cd-4

*R. (see2b) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.
or:
R. Alleluia.*

Sing a new song to the Lord!
He has worked miracles,
and with his own powerful arm,

he has won the victory.
The Lord has shown the nations
that he has the power to save
and to bring justice.

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

God's saving power is seen
everywhere on earth.
Tell everyone on this earth
to sing happy songs
in praise of the Lord.

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

SECOND READING

God is love.
A reading from the first letter of John 4:7-10

My dear friends, we must love each other.
Love comes from God,
and when we love each other,
it shows that we have been given new life.

We are now God's children, and we know him.

God is love,
and anyone who doesn't love others has never known him.

God showed his love for us
when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life.

Real love is not our love for God, but his love for us.
God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

John 14:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John 15:9-14

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I have loved you,
just as my Father has loved me

So make sure that I keep on loving you.

If you obey me.

I will keep loving you,
just as my Father keeps loving me,
because I have obeyed him.

"I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am.

Now I tell you to love each other,

as I have loved you.

The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.

And you are my friends,

if you obey me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Sixth Sunday of Easter—B Cycle

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving me and for showing me how to love.

Please help me to be kind, caring and respectful of all people.

In your name I pray.

Amen

Readings:

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm 98:1-2, 3cd-4

1st letter of John 4:7-10

John 15:9-14

Reflection:

“As the Father has loved me, so I love you.” Isn’t that amazing?! Jesus loves us the way His Father loves Him! To find out just how much love that is we need to look at how God treated Jesus. God gave Him a mother and step-father that were very special and loving. God told everyone that Jesus was His son and He was very proud of Him. God guided Jesus to tell the world that God loves them and wants them to treat each other with love and respect. God asked Jesus to do things that were right even though others would get angry and not like Him. God asked Jesus to die to save us. God raised Jesus from the dead.

Saying that Jesus loves us in the same way that God loves Him means that He also cares for us like a parent and asks us to do hard things just as God asked Him. **“Love one another as I have loved you”** is the second part of this teaching. We know how Jesus was obedient to God and did as He was asked even when it was hard. We know how Jesus treated everyone with love and respect, even those who were unpopular. We know how Jesus made people feel loved. This is how He wants us to love and care for others. This is easy to do when it is our parents or our friends. What about when it is our brother or sister or someone who is mean, or someone who is different?

Love is not just a warm fuzzy feeling we get. It is an action. To love means to live our lives showing love. Being kind, fair, respectful and caring to EVERYONE is how we love (ALL) others as Jesus loves us.

Discussion:

1. Name some people who are easy to love.
2. Talk about the types of people who are difficult to love. Do not name names! People who are mean, people who are “un-cool”, people who have disabilities, people who have different colored skin or hair, people who seem “perfect,” people who have different political or religious beliefs...
3. Does God love people who do bad things? For older kids: Does God love people like Osama Bin Laden? (Be careful that this question does not derail your lesson. God loves everyone, even those who do bad things. However, when people do bad

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things. However, when people do bad things it makes God very sad. God wants us to make sure that all people are treated justly and respectfully which will include people accepting the consequences for bad actions)

4. God does not expect us to be perfect so we do not have to become best friends, immediately, with someone who is hard to love. How can we begin to love those who are hard to love?

Activity:

Ask another adult or older child to help. Introduce them as “Juan” from Mexico who cannot speak any English (pick any name or nationality you want). Split the children into groups of 2 – 3 kids. Give them some time to plan. They are to figure out how to explain the word “love” to Juan who does not speak English. They can draw, act, etc.