

Sunday, May 26, 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Resist the rush

A great deal of money is made every instant by our inability to resist the urge to click on that headline, to check our messages, to see if anyone in the world is doing anything more interesting than we are right now. While we mean to duck out of the present for just a second, that second can turn into minutes or hours as we're lured deeper into the media addiction. It's not merely distracting. The sum total of our lost-soul wandering through constant global crises, conspiracies, diet ads, local tragedies, and shopping deals is a society-wide anxiety attack. Cultivate peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29 (57). *"Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."*

Monday, May 27, 2019

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP

Sweet surrender

Today's saint, Augustine of Canterbury, is best known for having a major hand in England's conversion to Christianity. During his lifetime (around 600), however, he was not seen as a success. He lost his nerve the first time he tried to cross the English Channel; he was disregarded by the powerful Britons for his perceived rudeness. And yet the seeds he planted in faith bore fruit, helping to firmly establish Christianity in Britain. Perhaps you might offer a prayer of surrender today, allowing God's grace to transform any seeming failures or shortcomings in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Today's readings: Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26—16:4a (291). *"The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father . . . will testify to me."*

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

Everyone loves a great story

The 1965 film classic about the life of Jesus was called *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. You can't argue with that title with regard to any telling of the life of Jesus. Aside from its supreme importance as the story of our salvation, it follows established dramatic structure to perfection: exposition (Jesus' background and ministry), rising action (his arrest and Passion), black moment when all is lost (his death), and climax, when the protagonist wins (his Resurrection). Then there's the dénouement, when everything finally makes sense—and that's when the Holy Spirit comes in, to help you tell this story to the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11 (292). *"For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you."*

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

There's Good News for the world

When Saint Paul—arguably the greatest and perhaps first Christian missionary—came to Greece, the birthplace of Western philosophy, he engaged his hearers on their own terms. His words about the nature of God and God's Son intrigued them, but because Paul boldly spoke about Christ's Resurrection as well, many simply walked away snickering. We are told, though, that others said, "We should like to hear you on this some other time." In 2019 the Good News of Jesus Christ should likewise engage the "secular world"—which is by definition *secular*: The Latin

saeculum means the "present world"—on its own terms. Like Paul we stay engaged with others with respect and above all with love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15 (293). *"Paul left them. But some did join him, and became believers."*

Thursday, May 30, 2019

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

All endings are new beginnings

Easter was over several weeks ago, right? Not really, because the story goes on. The post-Resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples. He ate with them. And he spent 40 days preparing them to continue his mission. Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, recalling the day Jesus ascended from this human life to enter divine glory and be "seated at God's right hand." Ascension brings to a remarkable close the Easter events that we call the "Pascal Mystery": the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Yet this really is not an end either. After the Ascension, the disciples returned to Jerusalem with joy, ready and eager for what was to come. Let's roll up our sleeves and carry on their ministry.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Luke 24:46-53 (58). *"Then he raised his hands, and blessed them . . . and they returned to Jerusalem with great joy."*

Friday, May 31, 2019

FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Share your faith

Two women on a common journey: one in the later stages of life and one just starting out. Yet they meet in the middle, Elizabeth and Mary, to share the same remarkable reality: new life seemingly out of nowhere! And both believed the incredible word that came to them from God, Elizabeth through her husband and Mary from an angel. Sharing their joy produced a song still sung around the world. Today is the feast day of small faith-sharing groups everywhere. Believe the word. Tell the story. Share the joy!

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-56 (572). *"And blessed is she who believed . . . what was spoken to her by the Lord."*

Saturday, Jun 01, 2019

MEMORIAL OF JUSTIN, MARTYR

Stand for true worship

In response to a Roman prefect's demand to worship the Roman gods, Justin Martyr (100-165) replied, "No one who is right-thinking stoops from true worship to false worship." Remember that when you are confronted with temptations throughout your day to be right, wealthier, happier, more comfortable, or more appreciated. True worship will lead you to desire to be reconciled, joy-filled, satisfied, and grateful. Ask for the gifts that come with true worship and they will be yours.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296). *"Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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