

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:26-31.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 22.

RESPONSE:

You are my praise, Lord, in the great assembly.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live on forever and ever! **R**
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R**
3. And my soul shall live for him, my descendants serve him.
they shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his saving justice to peoples yet unborn;
'These are the things the Lord has done'. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:18-24.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in me bears much fruit. Alleluia.

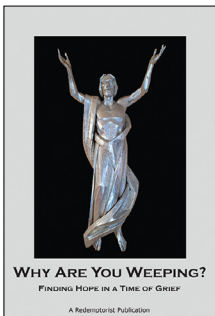
GOSPEL: John 15:1-8.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Just as he encountered Mary Magdalene with the question, "Why are you weeping?", Jesus continues to come to those who mourn the death of loved ones.

A new and revised version of the very popular first edition, this book is offered in the hope that it will bring readers who are grappling with questions of faith and feelings of loss, into contact with the compassion of Jesus.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 29 Apr St Catherine of Siena, VD

Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115; John 14:21-26

"The soul is in God and God is in the soul. God is closer to us than water is to a fish." – St Catherine of Siena. A fish pulls oxygen out of water to breathe. God is closer. God is our breath. God sustains us.

Tue 30 Apr OUR LADY MOTHER OF AFRICA

Acts 1:12-14; Resp: Luke 1:46-55; John 2:1-11

Ponder today Jesus' desertion by his friends and followers, his torture and a painful death on the cross. It was his mother who stood by him to the end. She will do the same for us in our time of need.

Wed 1 May (St Joseph the Worker)

Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122; John 15:1-8

On this memorial of St Joseph the Worker consider that "All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." – Martin Luther King Jr.

Thu 2 May St Athanasius, BD

Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96; John 15:9-11

Some think that they have to go and find suffering in their lives in order to be closer to Jesus. Not so. Suffering happens to all of us. The challenge is to allow the suffering that comes to us to transform us.

Fri 3 May SS PHILIP & JAMES, As

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Psalm 19; John 14:6-14

"The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image" otherwise "we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them" – Thomas Merton.

Sat 4 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100; John 15:18-21

"May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny here, that behind the façade of your life there is something beautiful, good, and eternal happening." – John O'Donohue

Sun 5 May 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48; Psalm 98; John 15:9-17

"I am as sure as I live that nothing is so near to me as God. God is nearer to me than I am to myself; my existence depends on the nearness and the presence of God." – Meister Eckhart

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) V=Virgin; D=Doctor; B=Bishop; As=Apostles)

Catholic Link

EASTER SPIRITUALITY

5th Sunday of Easter • Year B
Divine Office: Week I • 28 April 2024



The promise of Jesus in John 10:10 is fulfilled in his resurrection: "I came that they may have life and have it to the full." Easter is the greatest celebration of our new life in Christ.

But as we have been suggesting throughout our *Link* series on Easter spirituality, it is more than about *what* we believe. It is about how we live what we believe, how it becomes part of our Christian spirituality on a daily basis. Life in the Risen Christ is life itself, just as we have been given it, but lived in the power of "the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:2). St Paul puts this powerfully in Colossians 3:1-3.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.

Clearly St Paul teaches us that our true life, our life "hidden with Christ in God", is something that we have to search for beyond the immediate and the visible. Next time you hear someone – or even yourself – describe something or somewhere as "heavenly", stop and think twice about that. What is heaven, really? Do we even know? Paul says elsewhere that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it been put in our minds what God has prepared for those who love him (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). It is enough to know that the life we have been given, no matter how mundane (which literally

means earthly) is "hidden with Christ in God." But there are ways to reveal it, unobtrusively:

1. Start by having a new attitude to life, one that is more positive, more open. The 'Serenity Prayer' does this for many people, asking to accept the things we cannot change, change the things we can, and be given the wisdom to know the difference.
2. Learn to be more grateful. By simply being grateful for little things, by expressing gratitude to people, and by thanking God at the beginning of each day for the gift of life, and at the end of the day for three good things that happened, we are already living by the power of new life in Christ. Some saints would say, thank God even for difficult things! They may be exactly what God is using to make you more like Christ.
3. Celebrate the life of creation around you. Notice something you had not paid attention to before. Like an old tree on the corner with its wizened trunk and shapely branches, or the simplest flower. Even Jesus advised his listeners to "consider the lilies of the field" so as to become more aware of God's providence in their lives.
4. Care for someone. Nothing takes us out of our self-absorption more than a kind gesture, an act of humble service, a good deed to someone in need. Indeed, new life in Christ is best lived by being like him in his compassion, kindness and self-sacrifice.