

6th Sunday of Easter

Year B

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews.²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord.²² News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose;²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord.²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul;²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians.²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius.²⁹ And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea;³⁰ and

they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Psalm 33:1-8

Exultate, justi

- 1 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; *
it is good for the just to sing praises.
- 2 Praise the Lord with the harp; *
play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.
- 3 Sing for him a new song; *
sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.
- 4 For the word of the Lord is right, *
and all his works are sure.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; *
the loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole earth.
- 6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, *
by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.
- 7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *
and stores up the depths of the sea.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; *
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.

A Reading from 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses

that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love, because he first loved us. ²⁰ If any one says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John 15:9-17

Jesus said to His disciples, As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, to love one another.