



Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B

May 5, 2024

For the 6th Sunday of Easter Year B, the readings offer rich insights into love, inclusion, and divine friendship. Each theme is closely connected with how believers are called to live and interact in light of God's love.

- **God's impartial love:** God shows no partiality among people; His love is for all, as shown when the Holy Spirit fills everyone listening to Peter, regardless of being Jew or Gentile. This teaches us that God's love transcends human boundaries, inviting all into His divine family.
- **Power of divine love:** The second reading tells us that God is the essence of love itself, and loving others is how we truly know God. This emphasizes that love is not just a human emotion but a reflection of the divine presence within us.
- **Commandment of love:** Jesus commands His disciples to love one another as He has loved them. This directive is rooted in His own obedience and love for the Father, highlighting love as the fundamental principle of Christian life.
- **Sacrifice as true love:** Jesus speaks about the greatest love being shown when one lays down their life for their friends. This underlines the sacrificial nature of true love, exemplified by Jesus' own life and death.
- **Friendship with God:** Elevating His followers from servants to friends, Jesus shares divine truths with them. This shift illustrates the deep, personal relationship God seeks with us, based on transparency and mutual love.
- **Promise of answered prayers:** Jesus assures that requests made in His name will be granted. This not only shows the power of prayer but also the confidence we can have in God's responsiveness to our needs.

The readings for the 6th Sunday of Easter Year B illustrate various dimensions of love as the core of Christian identity. These themes each point back to the fundamental truth that God is love, and our lives should reflect this reality.

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.

John 15:9

Embracing God's Universal Love

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see a remarkable event where Peter, a Jew, realizes that God does not favor one group of people over another. As Peter spoke to a gathering that included both Jews and Gentiles, the Holy Spirit came upon everyone present. This was a clear sign that God's love and salvation were available to all, not just a select few.

Moved by this understanding, Peter baptized the Gentiles, officially welcoming them into the Christian community. This passage teaches us that God's love knows no boundaries and that we, too, are called to transcend our prejudices and share God's love with all.