

Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.’

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: ‘Now I am making the whole of creation new.’

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Jn 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

My little children, I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment:

love one another;

just as I have loved you,

you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

THE SAVING WORD

18 MAY 2025

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

In John’s Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples for his death and departure from them. Today’s Gospel offers his final testimony to them about his relationship to God and final words that sum up his teaching legacy. Jesus will be glorified by God, even despite the indignation and suffering that await. Jesus will also ‘glorify’ God. His life and death reveal God’s presence. The way that John portrays this in the story of Jesus’ passion, death and glorification, we have already heard in John’s Gospel proclaimed on Good Friday.

The second part of today’s proclamation characterises Jesus followers throughout history: They (‘we’) are to love one another as Jesus loved: with humility, commitment, and selflessly. This style of living, typical of authentic discipleship, is so needed today in a world in which the selfish and great power-mongers seem to have the upper hand. The style of humble loving discipleship is what will change the world.

The Gospel’s final words (‘By this love you have for one another....’) affirm this. They also shape the style of discipleship that frames local faith communities and parishes: Genuine love of one another, reflective of the spirit and heart of the kind of love that Jesus emulated for his disciples, will have its influence on the world. It will especially affect those seeking a faith nourishing community.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. ‘We all have to experience many hardships’ they said ‘before we enter the kingdom of God.’ In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v. 1

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (or Alleluia!)

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, / slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, / and your friends shall repeat their blessing. / They shall speak of the glory of your reign / and declare your might, O God, / to make known to men your mighty deeds / and the glorious splendour of your reign. **R.**

3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; / your rule lasts from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Apoc 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, ‘You see this city?’

