

6th Sunday of Easter
Cycle A
May 14, 2023

1st Reading: Acts 8: 14 – 17.

The Samaritans received the Message and the Holy Spirit.

Psalm: Psalm 66:1 – 3,4 – 5,6 – 7,16, 20.

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15 – 18.

Christ went through it all so that he could bring us to the Father.

Gospel: John 14;15 – 18.; L55A

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

(This breaking open of the Word comes to you from my Covid bed, where I am showing my love for you by keeping you safe)

God is good, **All the time**; All the time, **God is good!**

- Jesus Christ is truly risen; **Christ is risen indeed!** Glad you all remembered that is the early church's Easter greeting to one another. As we heard this morning (Psalm 66, vs 5) "Take a good look at God's wonders—they'll take your breath away." Our Easter readings are so rich to help us deepen our appreciation for Jesus' teaching on "Love" taken from his 'final discourse' at what we call the Last Supper. ??Truly and eternal Love Feast.
- Friends, as I quickly read our readings for this weekend, all I could think of was that old Beatles tune, "all you need is love" Love is all we need. John Lennon seemed to really get it. Jesus adds an intense piece to this "love", he tells us God our daddy will never abandon us, never leave us alone. How do we experience this breath-taking love. I am taken back 21/2 years and on the surgery table. My mind was telling me I was dead, and a nurse grabbed my hand and

said, “Joe, we got you,” she was standing in for God and assuring me I will never be abandoned. What an appropriate reading for Mothers’ Day. “I will never abandon you!”

- The other thing that caught my attention in this Gospel, is how many times Jesus uses the word “in.” I am in the Father, The Father is in me. The father and I are one. If you love me, you will keep my commands; and you will be in me. Think of the breath-taking intimacy described here. This gives me hope! Jesus became one with us so we can become one in him, are you feeling the hope?

As St. Augustine observed, “We are an Easter People.” Jesus the Christ is risen today, alleluia! Because we are in him, we have risen with him. Let us continue with our Eucharistic Prayer, and through our active participation embody this great gift given to us. Remembering that at this supper we are close to God’s mercy and love in the presence of the Christ in the bread and wine and in each other. As Handel penned in the *Messiah*, “I know that my redeemer lives” and I live in him!

God is good. **All the time;** All the time. **God is good!**