

Our Household: Builder or Built: What's Love to Do with It

5th Easter Sunday: 15 May 2022

All: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

(You may begin by singing a song together.)

PREPARING FOR THE FEAST

Women: Loving God your Son always showed compassion for children and for the poor, for the sick and for sinners.

Men: Help us be compassionate to people suffering illness in our time.

Women: Jesus became a neighbor to the oppressed and the afflicted.

Men: Help us be aware of and respond our known and unknown neighbors.

Women: By word and deed, Jesus announced to the world that that you are our Creator and the Source of Life. He showed us in his action your care for all your sons and daughters.

Men: May his Word be heard in our voices. May his action be seen in our response.

Women: Pilgrim God, you love us, and always walk with us on the journey of life.

Men: We are called to gather by the love you send us in Jesus.

Women: Present to us then and now, Jesus opens the Word for us.

Men: Help us open our hearts and minds to your Word.

Women: Present to us then and now, Jesus breaks bread at our tables.

Men: Help us open our tables to others and to nurture those who are alone.

Women: It is your Spirit made known in Jesus' presence that heals our wounds.

All: Thank you, Source of Life!

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

*Today's Gospel is found in **John 13:31-33a, 34-35**. The other Readings, **Acts 14:21-27** and **Revelations 21:1-5a** can be read or simply the Gospel. While someone reads the Scripture(s), listen well. Be aware of the image being painted, or the story being told. Does the story or the image call to mind anything similar in your own life or experience? After reading, share your impressions of the reading (s) with each other:*

✓ *When have you been elected to leadership or organizer for a homeowner's association, schoolboard, community organization, parish council, a 12-step group, building committee, family reunion organizer, etc.? Talk about your experience.*

✓ *Was it all cookies and cream; a bed of roses? How long did it take for the cookies to get soggy and the roses to show up with their thorns? How did you handle that?*

A Black preacher, teaching about Stewardship, said one Sunday. "Being in the church is not about 10% or 20%. It's about giving 100%. Everything we are and have is 100% from God, and to God it belongs! We cannot hold back anything we are from God and serving the Gospel!"

It's important to understand *our identity* in any form of community when reading and talking about the 1st Century followers of "The Way" AKA Christians (1st called such in Antioch among the Gentiles, us "no-people").

✓ *Complete this sentence a few of times (maybe write down your words):*

○ *"Christians" are like _____.*

○ *"Christians" do _____.*

✓ *If the words written down were laudatory, what could be done to spread that "wealth?"*

✓ *Who do you know who builds such a positive image?*

✓ *What's their effect?*

- ✓ *If the words written down were critical, what is necessary to animate a better expression of witness?*
- ✓ *What is missing to better reflect the vision expressed in the 1st Reading?*
- ✓ *In which mirror do you encounter your own engagement and action?*

The 2nd Reading from Revelations offers this solace: **God's dwelling is with the human race. GOD WILL DWELL WITH THEM. They will be God's people and God will always be with them as their God.**

- ✓ *Where have you seen God dwelling lately?*
- ✓ *When have you been God's dwelling lately? "Anybody home?"*

What's Love Got to Do with it? A Greeting Card? "A secondhand emotion?"

- ✓ *What is different and similar to your expression of love for people in your "circle" and an "unknown" person you encounter?*
- ✓ *Tie the action of the Reading from Acts to the final lines of today's Gospel?*
- ✓ *How do we connect what the Black preacher had to teach and what Jesus was expressing for us?*

SHARING THE FEAST

The feast can be a loaf of bread (rice-cakes, chapati, naan, pita, tortilla, oatcakes, sweet bread, baguette, etc.) and an individual glasses of (wine, water, cider, grape juice). The bread and the wine are passed to one another. Each person serving the individual next to him or her.

All: Creator God, Source of All Life, we gather in our household to remember and celebrate the Life, Teaching, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. We gather as our domestic church and later as a parish community to share the Bread of life and the Cup of Salvation. Here, we prepare to be with the community. We break the bread of your Word and the bread of our table. Recognize that, as we eat (*share bread*) and drink (*share a drink*) together here, we seek to quench our spiritual thirst by opening to your presence in one another.

INTERCESSIONS

Eldest Reader: Enlighten Pope Francis and *N.* our Bishop, as well as the Priests and Deacons, catechists and Council Members who serve our community with insight to guide us in impacting the society around us. **All:** Inspire them to serve truly with Christ as their example.

Youngest Reader: May we be signs of hope and reconciliation for others: known and unknown.

All: So that we may be made one in you.

Eldest Reader: Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

All: May we, this domestic Church (*AKA Our Household*), stand with people in their need.

Youngest Reader: Inspire in us words and actions to comfort those who labor and are burdened.

All: May our faith guide us to action as the disciples made Jesus' as action their own.

Eldest and Youngest Reader: May all who respond to the Love of God be living witnesses to truth and freedom, to peace and justice, that all people may be raised up to a new hope.

All: May we, in our domestic Church stand responsively with others in need.

Youngest Member: Who do we know who are new babies, or newly married, are finishing grade school, high school or college? (*Mention them by name.*) **Youngest Member:** For these let us pray:

All: Be their light and their hope as they grow in life.

Eldest Reader: Who do we remember in our families who have died? (*Mention their names.*)

Eldest Reader: For these we pray:

All: May they know and see the light of your Face oh God!