

6th Sunday – Easter – Year A

- I have 2 grandsons – the oldest is Jack – 9yo
 - When Jack was about 2 he had a ‘blankie’ – it went everywhere
 - Some children have teddy bears – stuffed animals – Jack had his blankie
 - In restaurants, on airplanes, in grocery store – Jack had his blankie
 - Eventually it became a torn up, thread-bare rag – but Jack had his blankie
 - Blankie gave Jack a feeling of security – comfort
 - Where do we get our security? What is our comforter?

Jesus wants us to be secure IN HIM

- So Jesus says:
“I will send you an advocate to be with you. The spirit of truth whom the world cannot accept because it does not know Him, but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans.”
- The Holy Spirit **is** our comforter – and He’s a lot better than any teddy bear or blankie!
- JESUS promises to send the Holy Spirit BUT, there’s an IF
 - **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments, ...and my Father will send the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot accept”**
- The **IF** implies we are to struggle with all the forces preventing us from keeping cmdmnts.
 - & What are the cmdmnts? Beyond 10 - they are commandments of love (MT 25).

To serve one another	Feed the hungry, cloth the naked, care for ill,
To live in communion with one another	shelter homeless, drink to the thirsty, visit prisoners
To love our enemies	To wash each others’ feet
To love one another as JC loves	

THIS IS THE WAY – and it is a struggle
BUT I HAVE NOT LEFT YOU ORPHANS – (we don’t struggle alone)
 - We can see the import of the HS in the 1st reading
 - Deacon Philip goes to Samaria (why? – cause they stoned Stephen in Jerusalem)
 - In Samaria he begins to proclaim Jesus (he’s not that afraid)
 - The crowd pays attention
 - Unclean spirits come out – paralyzed and cripples are healed
 - Great joy in the city
 - Apostles in Jerusalem hear of it and send Peter & John (Apostles)
- Samaritans (Jewish rejects) accept the Word – Now what? (even them??)
- “They prayed that they might receive the HS, for they had only been baptized in the name of JESUS”
 - Wait a minute – isn’t that enough? Baptized in name of Jesus.
 - NO, it wasn’t – that’s why they send Apostles and not another Deacon
 - That’s why our Church sends us Apostles for Confirmation (Bp. Pinder)
 - They lay hands on them and they receive the HS – Just like Confirmation
 - They are born again/new creation.
 - If I added Red/Blue clay together I’d get purple – a new creation
 - When the Lord took FRANK & added HS – a new creation
 - When the Lord took our Confirmation kids & added HS – bingo!
 - ***We may outgrow the need for a teddy bear or a blankie***
 - ***BUT we never outgrow the need for the HS***
 - ***Jesus promised He would not leave us orphans, that He’d send HS – and HE did***
TO NORWOOD – the HS is in our midst – be the new creation we are intended to be

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Reading 1 Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,
sing praise to the glory of his name;
proclaim his glorious praise.
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!"

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,
sing praise to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

He has changed the sea into dry land;
through the river they passed on foot;
therefore let us rejoice in him.
He rules by his might forever.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare
what he has done for me.

Blessed be God who refused me not
my prayer or his kindness!

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Reading 2 [1 Pt 3:15-18](#)

Beloved:

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

Alleluia [Jn 14:23](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel [Jn 14:15-21](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,
the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept,
because it neither sees nor knows him.

But you know him, because he remains with you,
and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me,
but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father
and you are in me and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and observes them
is the one who loves me.

And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love him and reveal myself to him."