

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 2018



THE LESSON Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶They heard

them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, ⁴⁷"These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?" ⁴⁸He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song because he has done wonderful things! His own strong hand and his own holy arm have won the victory!

⁷The LORD has made his salvation widely known; he has revealed his righteousness in the eyes of all the nations.

⁸God has remembered his loyal love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation.

⁹Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! Be happy! Rejoice out loud! Sing your praises!

¹⁰Sing your praises to the LORD with the lyre—with the lyre and the sound of music.

¹¹With trumpets and a horn blast, shout triumphantly before the LORD, the king! ¹²Let the sea and everything in it roar; the world and all its inhabitants too.

¹³Let all the rivers clap their hands; let the mountains rejoice out loud together ¹⁴before the LORD because he is coming to establish justice on the earth!

He will establish justice in the world rightly; he will establish justice among all people fairly.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. ⁷This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. ⁸This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult,

⁹because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. ¹⁰Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?

¹¹This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water only but by water and blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

THE GOSPEL John 15:9-17

⁹As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹²This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you

do what I command you. ¹⁵I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷I give you these commandments so that you can love each other."

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