

Saturday 15 May 2021
Saturday of the 6th week of Eastertide
Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. 1 Pt 2: 9

O chosen people, proclaim the mighty works of him
who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, alleluia.

Collect

O God, whose Son, at his Ascension to the heavens,
was pleased to promise the Holy Spirit to the Apostles,
grant, we pray,
that, just as they received manifold gifts of heavenly teaching,
so on us, too, you may bestow spiritual gifts.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
(one) God, for ever and ever.

First reading - Acts 18:23-28

**Apollos demonstrated from the scriptures that Jesus was the
Christ**

Paul came down to Antioch, where he spent a short time before continuing his journey through the Galatian country and then through Phrygia, encouraging all the followers.

An Alexandrian Jew named Apollos now arrived in Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, with a sound knowledge of the scriptures, and yet, though he had been given instruction in the Way of the Lord and preached with great spiritual earnestness and was accurate in all the details he taught about Jesus, he had only experienced the baptism of John. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him speak boldly in the synagogue, they took an interest in him and gave him further instruction about the Way.

When Apollos thought of crossing over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote asking the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived there he was able by God's grace to help the believers considerably by the energetic way he refuted the Jews in public and demonstrated from the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 46(47):2-3,8-10

God is king of all the earth.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

God is king of all the earth.

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

God is king of all the earth.

The princes of the people are assembled
with the people of Abraham's God.
The rulers of the earth belong to God,
to God who reigns over all.

God is king of all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation - Jn14:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 16:23-28

**The Father loves you for loving me and believing that I came
from God**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I tell you most solemnly,
anything you ask for from the Father he will grant in my name.

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name.
Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete.
I have been telling you all this in metaphors,
the hour is coming when I shall no longer speak to you in metaphors;
but tell you about the Father in plain words.
When that day comes you will ask in my name;
and I do not say that I shall pray to the Father for you,
because the Father himself loves you for loving me
and believing that I came from God.
I came from the Father and have come into the world
and now I leave the world to go to the Father.’

Reflection / Meditation

Apollos was “a man of eloquence,” “an authority on Scripture,” “instructed in the new way of the Lord,” “full of spiritual fervor,” and both accurate and fearless in his speech and teaching (Acts 18:24-26). This man had wonderful gifts and talents. Yet when Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos speak, they knew he lacked something very important. He lacked the Holy Spirit! Apollos knew *about* Jesus but didn’t know Jesus in a very personal intimate way. That is possible only through the Holy Spirit. Apollos had not received a new nature or life in the Spirit by being baptized into Jesus and filled with the Spirit.

Many people today, even those baptized, are like Apollos. They have everything going for them; they are wonderful people to be with but they lack what is most important: Union with the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit. They have sinned, stifled the Spirit, and are no longer living out their Baptisms. In this condition, it’s impossible for them to please God, no matter how hard they try or how talented they are (see Rm 8:8). It is now time for them to stop everything, repent of their sins, renew their commitment to Jesus, and receive the Spirit (Acts 2:38). Then they will receive power from on high (Acts 1:8). Only then can they go make disciples of all nations and build God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Have you wondered why your life is not very fruitful? Or why there is an inner dissatisfaction and sadness lingering in your soul? Most probably it is because you have dismissed the Holy Spirit through serious sin, or stifled the Spirit through your lack of cooperation with His inspirations,

through negligence in prayer, failure to fulfill the duties of your state of life, or by rejecting the daily crosses.

On this second day of Novena to the Holy Spirit, it is important that you ask the Lord to send you the Holy Spirit, to make your union with God much more alive. Jesus tells us in the Gospel, “Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete”. It is a question of persistently *asking*. If we ask, he will give. To live with Jesus, to have Him at all times in our mind and heart, is something that we must strive for. United with Him we can do everything, separated from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Prayer over the Offerings

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon - Jn 17: 24

Father, I wish that, where I am,
those you gave me may also be with me,
that they may see the glory that you gave me, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.