



**CONSOLATA SHRINE**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**



**FIRST READING**

**Acts: 8:5-8.14-17**

*“They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”*

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**



In those days: Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the multitudes with one accord gave heed to what was said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs which he did. For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city. Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them

Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for the Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**PSALM 66:1-7, 16. 20 (R.1)**

**Response - Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.**

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God, “How awesome your deeds!” (R)

“Before you all the earth shall bow down,

shall sing to you, sing to your name!”

Come and see the works of God:

awesome his deeds among the children of men. (R)

He turned the sea into dry land;  
they passed through the river on foot.  
Let our joy, then, be in him;  
he rules forever by his might. (R)

Come and hear, all who fear God;  
I will tell what he did for my soul.  
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,  
nor withhold from me his merciful love. (R)

## SECOND READING

**1 Peter 3:15-18**

*"Put to death in the flesh, he was made alive in the Spirit."*

### **A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter**

Beloved: In your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit.

## ALLELUIA

*If a man loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord;  
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.*

## Alleluia



## GOSPEL

**John 14: 15-21**

*"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor."*

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

At that time: 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 Counsellor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

## **Alive in the Spirit by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.**

Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans," He assures us in today's Gospel. He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father. We see the promised gift of His Spirit being conferred in today's First Reading. The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the first deacons, proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God and are baptized. It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized - that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our sacrament of Confirmation, by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord. We remain in this grace so long as we love Christ and keep His commandments. And strengthened in the Spirit whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation - to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son. In today's Psalm, we celebrate our liberation. As He changed the sea into dry land to free the captive Israelites, Christ suffered that He might lead us to God, as we hear in today's Epistle. This is the reason for our hope - the hope that sustains us in the face of a world that cannot accept His truth, the hope that sustains us when we are maligned and defamed for His name's sake. Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit, Paul tells us today. And as He himself promises: "Because I live, you will live."



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