

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27  
Ps 145:8-13  
Rev 21:1-5a  
John 13:31-35

### Monday May 16

Acts 14:5-18  
Ps 115:1-4,15-16  
John 14:21-26

### Tuesday May 17

Acts 14:19-28  
PS 145:10-13,21  
John 14:27-31a

### Wednesday May 18

Acts 15:1-6  
Ps 122:1-5  
John 15:1-8

### Thursday May 19

Acts 15:7-21  
Ps 96:1-3,10  
John 15:9-11

### Friday May 20

Acts 15:22-31  
Ps 57:8-10,12  
John 15:12-17

### Saturday May 21

Acts 16:1-10  
Ps 100:1b-3,5  
John 15:18-21

If you knew you were about to die, what wisdom would you impart to your loved ones in your final moments? What's most important for them to learn from you?

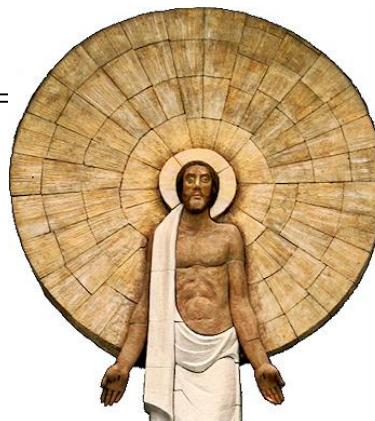
In the Gospel reading, Jesus knows his time is short. The first thing he says to his friends are words of praise for God (the Father) while equating himself with God. He even calls his friends "children" as if he himself is God the Father! In so doing, he makes it clear that he is one with the Father: so totally that the lines between Father and Savior are blurred. And he does it humbly, glorifying his Father.

Glory is the radiating light of God's presence: his love, his joy, his holiness, his peace, his wisdom, his creativity, and everything else that he imparts on those who want to

bathe in his glory. When we glorify God, we are reflecting back to him this same glory. How much of this glory is illuminating your life?

After describing the exchange of glory between Father and Son, Jesus imparts to his disciples the highest wisdom of the universe: The key to successfully joining Jesus in the glory of God is to love as he loves.

Love is not love unless it unselfishly gives itself to others. Jesus unselfishly gave himself to us completely, even in death. Followers of Jesus are not true follow-



ers, disciples are not true disciples, priests are not true priests, lay leaders are not true leaders, unless they serve with love, in love, and through love.

The glory of God is love that gives itself completely, even sacrificially.

Why does the Gospel reading give us a scene from the Passion of Christ while we're celebrating the season of Easter? The other readings are full of Easter: "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5a). And yet here is Jesus preparing for betrayal, torture, and death. Why?

This Gospel reading is Jesus imparting to us today the key to continuing the mission of sharing God's glory, which Jesus began and now calls us to do. By loving one another in a spirit of sacrifice, we are showing the world that Jesus is real, he is risen, and he is alive in us.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Whom do you not love?
2. If you were able to give that person a gift of yourself as an act of love for the glory of God, what would that gift be?
3. How do sacrificial acts of love glorify God?
4. Name a good deed you did recently. How was it self-giving (sacrificial)? How was it also a gift from Jesus, a sign that he was working through you?