



# Liturgy of the Word for Individuals, Families & Communities

6th Sunday Easter Year C

*Prepare a prayer focus and light a candle.*

**SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa...**

**READER:** Kia noho te Ariki ki a koutou -- The Lord be with you

**ALL:** Ki tōu wairua anō hoki -- And also with you

**READER:**

Tēnā koutou katoa, welcome everybody. It is the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. Pope Francis said, 'ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but of having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst.' As we celebrate this liturgy of the Word, we remember that Jesus is with us and our encounter is with Jesus.

**Let's Sing**

**Children – God loves me**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zlgxXmVE8>

**Youth – How Lovely is your Dwelling Place**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qh3A7sDZeo>

**Adult – Dwelling Place**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VqtL8xZf5M>

**READER:** E te Atua, God who makes your dwelling place with us, may our joy be in you. Make us your instruments of love and peace in all we do.

You show us kindness and bless us

Lord have mercy

**(All)** Lord have mercy

You make known your ways upon earth

Christ have mercy

**(All)** Christ have mercy

You dispense true justice to the world

Lord have mercy

**All)** Lord have mercy

**OPENING PRAYER:** Ka inoi tatou – let us pray. In this time of silence, we bring to mind all the things we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

God of everlasting kindness, you have chosen to make your dwelling place in the human heart. Make us instruments of your goodness so that in all we do we bear your love to one-another.

Through Jesus our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit we pray. **ALL: Amen**

**FIRST READING Acts 15: 1-2,22-29**

A reading from the book of Acts

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved."

Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them,

it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question.

The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers.

This is the letter delivered by them:

"The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia

of Gentile origin: greetings.  
Since we have heard that some of our number  
who went out without any mandate from us  
have upset you with their teachings  
and disturbed your peace of mind,  
we have with one accord decided to choose representatives  
and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,  
who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
So we are sending Judas and Silas  
who will also convey this same message by word of mouth:  
'It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us  
not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities,  
namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols,  
from blood, from meats of strangled animals,  
and from unlawful marriage.  
If you keep free of these,  
you will be doing what is right. Farewell.'"  
Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord  
**ALL:** Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence** – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word find a place to rest inside us.*

**Discuss** - In the spirit of Jesus, Paul Barnabas and the other elders made it clear that the gentiles did not need to adhere to every rule that some were laying upon them. Do you ever come across 'unnecessary' rules? What is the effect of these 'unnecessary' rules?

<b>PSALM:</b>	<i>Psalm 67</i>	<i>O God, let all the nations praise you.</i>
	<i>Children</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5EC22vjUdg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5EC22vjUdg</a>
	<i>Youth</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JH5Lfdq98-I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JH5Lfdq98-I</a>
	<i>Adults</i>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnpGk8zPUog">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnpGk8zPUog</a>

**Second Reading** Revelation 21:10-14,22-23

A reading from the book of Revelation  
The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain  
and showed me the holy city Jerusalem  
coming down out of heaven from God.  
It gleamed with the splendour of God.  
Its radiance was like that of a precious stone,  
like jasper, clear as crystal.  
It had a massive, high wall,  
with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed  
and on which names were inscribed,  
the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites.  
There were three gates facing east,  
three north, three south, and three west.  
The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation,  
on which were inscribed the twelve names  
of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.  
I saw no temple in the city  
for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb.  
The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it,  
for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.  
Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord  
**ALL:** Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence** - *Follow the reading with quiet thinking time.*

**Discussion starter** – St Paul said ‘now we see dimly...’ (1 Cor 13:12). How does this contrast with St John’s vision, that we hear of in this scripture?

**GOSPEL:** John 14:23-29

**Reader** Kia noho te Ariki - The Lord be with you

**All** Ki tōu wairua anō hoki – And also with you

**Reader** A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our dwelling with them.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;

yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you.

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’

If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe.”

**Reader** Ko te rongopai a te Ariki – The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL:** Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti –

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*After the reading - Silence.*

→ **Children’s Reflection on the Gospel – Douglas Talks, God is always with you**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWlwdDtuwGU>

→ **Adults / Youth - Reflection / Discussion** – ‘We will come to them and make our dwelling with them.’ What does it mean that we will make our ‘dwelling’ with them?

**Prayer of the Faithful: As God’s people we pray for the needs of the whole world.**

**For the Church** – that we learn how to walk together as a synodal Church.

**(Silence) Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Let us rejoice!

**For Catholic parishes** – that we respond to the call to become missionary disciples and missionary parishes.

**(Silence) Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Let us rejoice!

**For people, communities and nations torn apart by war** – that peace be restored and that families and communities will once again enjoy fullness of life.

**(Silence) Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Let us rejoice!

**For health care workers** – that they find fulfilment in their work, are appreciated and paid justly, and resolve disputes amicably.

**(Silence) Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Let us rejoice!

**For players, administrators and supporters of sport** – that sport not be seen as an end in itself, but be used as a means to support children and adults, and bring about fullness of life for them.

**(Silence) Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Let us rejoice!

**For the children of Aotearoa New Zealand** – that their innocence be protected, their education be robust and that they might thrive spiritually, physically and emotionally.

**(Silence) Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Let us rejoice!

**For our Common Home** – that people respond positively to the call to reduce carbon emissions and become protectors of the environment.

**(Silence) Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia! Let us rejoice!

**Healthcarers in our country** are vulnerable and in need of support. You might like to pray this prayer in their support. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fosHDTqaaak>

## Concluding Prayer

Jesus said to his disciples: those who love me keep my word. Merciful and loving God who makes your home with us, grant us the grace to keep your word in all things. Accept the prayers we place before you now. Strengthen us as your disciples, eager to do your will and serve you in our neighbour. Grant this through Jesus, the Christ, who lives and reigns with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever... **AMEN**

**READER:** Sometimes we find it difficult to accept that God chooses to dwell within each of us, within you, within me. Let's think about that as we pray this prayer together.

Ever-present God,  
So generously and mercifully you overlook our faults  
And choose to make the human heart your dwelling place.  
May I accept this great dignity conferred on me.  
May I be aware that Christ has chosen to be present in and through me.  
May I accept that God has chosen to dwell within me.  
May I accept that I am a living temple of the Holy One.  
May I welcome this presence of the divine within me.  
May I be aware that through me, Christ will minister to others.  
May I welcome the presence of Christ in others.  
May I see others as temples, as dwelling places of the Divine One.  
May we be one.  
And so, by my life, may I give glory to God.  
Through Christ I pray - **Amen.**

**READER:** Let's pray the Lord's prayer together. The Lord's Prayer in Te Reo Māori.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU1GNEVohYY>

*Or the Lord's Prayer in English.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## READER: Blessing

(from the Sisters of the Divine Saviour - [https://www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org/pray\\_archive/st-theresas-prayer/](https://www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org/pray_archive/st-theresas-prayer/))

May today there be peace within you.  
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.  
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in faith.  
May you use those gifts that you have received,  
and pass on the love that has been given to you.  
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.  
Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us. **All: Alleluia Amen**

**READER:** Thank you for your participation in this Liturgy of the Word, thank you for your kindness and presence. We rejoice always, because we do not walk alone. God, who abounds in merciful love, is with us and in us and stays with us. May we be messengers of God's love, peace and forgiveness in the world today. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

Let us go in peace, loving and serving God in all we do.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Song Christ has no Body now but yours**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUbxOli4Hcl>