

Liturgy Alive of 6th Sunday of Easter - B -

Greeting

Love comes from God
and everyone who loves
is born from God and knows God.
May Jesus, the Son of God,
who made God's love known to us,

be always with you. *R/ And also with you.*

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. A Love without Boundaries (Option 1)

We are again reminded today that the heart of Christianity is love: love of God, love of one another. Jesus tells us that we have to love one another as he has loved us. This is a very demanding love, for it commits us to love not only those we like and who love us or like-minded fellow Christians, but also the difficult ones, the "unlovable," people far from perfect, outsiders... That is not so easy, and this is probably why he calls it a commandment. Let us ask our Lord in this eucharist that we may grow in this openness of genuine love.

B. As I Have Loved You (Option 2)

We are often surprised how inventive love can be and to discover it where we had not expected it. It makes a dour husband surprise his wife with an unpredictable gesture of tenderness or a couple in the slums adopt a child found abandoned in the street. God's astonishing love is the source of it all. He shows it when he gives up his own Son for us. Jesus kept giving a human shape to God's love when he cared for people and gave new chances even to outcasts, the unloved and the unlovable. Today he calls us his friends and he tells us: "Love one another as I have loved you." With these words he challenges us in today's eucharist.

Penitential Act

We are still far from loving people
the way Jesus wants us to love them.
We ask the Lord and one another to forgive us.
(PAUSE)

Lord Jesus, you have loved us
as the Father has loved you.
Keep us in your love:

Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Jesus Christ, the way you have loved us
is that you laid down your life for us.
Make us live for one another:

Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you loved the weak,
sinners, those hard to love.
Open our love and make it like yours:

Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

In your goodness forgive us, Lord,
and make committed love
the characteristic of us, your people.

Lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Let us ask the Father
that we may put no boundaries to our love
(PAUSE)
God, love is your name
and you have revealed all its depth
when you sent your only Son into the world
and let him be the sacrifice that took our sins away.
Through Jesus, who calls us his friends,
make our love as strong as life and death,
let it always have the last word in us

and be given for free, like yours.
May we always remain in your love
and love one another
as Jesus has loved us.

he who is our Lord for ever and ever. *R/ Amen.*

General Intercessions

Since Jesus is our friend, we can commend to him all those we love and the needs of all those whom we should learn to love. Let us say: *R/ Lord, give us the gift of love.*

- Lord Jesus, let there be love and friendship and trust in the community of your Church between its leaders and the faithful, we ask you, *Lord: R/ Lord, give us the gift of love.*

- Lord Jesus, let there be love and friendship among all the people and the churches that claim that you are their Lord and shepherd; may they become really one in you, we pray you, *Lord: R/ Lord, give us the gift of love.*

- Lord Jesus, let love and friendship reign in all our communities of religious, that they may be good witnesses to your love, we pray you, *Lord: R/ Lord, give us the gift of love.*

- Lord Jesus, let love and friendship reign in all our Christian families, that parents and children may be living cells from which understanding and love may grow in our world, we pray you, *Lord: R/ Lord, give us the gift of love.*

- Lord, let there be love and friendship among us that opens our eyes and hands and hearts to the needs and the persons of the sick and the lonely, of the poor and the victims of injustice, we pray, you *Lord: R/ Lord, give us the gift of love.*

- Let there be love and friendship in all our Christian communities, that people may come to believe in you when they see how we love one another, we pray you, *Lord: R/ Lord, give us the gift of love.*

Jesus, our friend, let us remain in your love and warm one another with it, for you are our Lord for ever and ever. *R/ Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God, loving Father,

your love appeared with a human face
in your Son Jesus Christ.
He showed all the depth of your love and his
by laying down his life for us, his friends.
As he gives himself to us
as the bread of life,
may he be our food
on the road of life and love,
not only when it is easy to love
but also when it is hard to be faithful
and when love demands much sacrifice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Let us raise our hearts and voices to our loving Father in heaven for having loved us before we could love him. With Jesus, God's sign of love to us, let us offer the Father our desire and will to let his love overflow on everyone.

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

With Jesus, our brother,
let us pray together to our Father in heaven
who loves us with so great a love

as to give us his own Son: *R/ Our Father...*

Deliver Us

Deliver us, Lord from all forms of selfishness
that close us to our people.
Keep us free from all sins
that endanger love among us
and grant us the peace of unity.
Make us attentive and open to all,
as we wait in joyful hope

for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ: *R/ For the kingdom...*

At the Sign of Peace

Let the sign of peace today be the expression of our genuine love for one another, and may it be followed by many signs and tokens of love in the life of every day.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. *R/ And also with you.*

Invitation to Communion

This is our Lord who said:

"Love one another
as I have loved you."
Happy are we to be invited

to the Lord's table of love and unity. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,

in this eucharistic celebration
you have given us new proof of your love
by giving us your Son and his Spirit.
Jesus has strengthened our love.
Accept our thanks
and bring out the best in us,
that we may bear rich fruit
of faithful, reliable love.
Let your Holy Spirit unite us
to build community with one another
and to live in your love and joy

now and for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Blessing

We know that God loves us

and wants to live among us.
He calls us his friends, his chosen ones.
Let us respond to his love without measure.
We are sure that we love God
and that he is present among us
when we love one another.
May God give us the strength to do so,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Go in peace, live in the Lord's love,

and serve him in people. *R/ Thanks be to God.*