

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael with St Martin of Tours FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YR C)

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God Heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen

FIRST READING A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles (14:21-27)

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.
The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 144:8-13. R. Cf. v.1)

R. I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. **R.**

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. **R.**



SECOND READING A reading from the book of the
Apocalypse (21:1-5)

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'
The word of the Lord.

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Gospel Acclamation (Jn 13:34)

R. Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'I give you a new commandment: love one another, just as I have loved you.' **R. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (13:31-35)

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my
disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,**

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord

(All Bow until Mary)

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Love

The Christian understanding is that love comes from God. The love of man and woman—*eros* in Greek—and the unselfish love of others (*agape*), are often contrasted as "ascending" and "descending" love, respectively, but are ultimately the same thing. There are several Greek words for "love" that are regularly referred to in Christian circles.

Agape: In the New Testament, *agapē* is charitable, selfless, altruistic, and unconditional. It is parental love, seen as creating goodness in the world; it is the way God is seen to love humanity, and it is seen as the kind of love that Christians aspire to have for one another.

Phileo: Also used in the New Testament, *phileo* is a human response to something that is found to be delightful. Also known as "brotherly love."

Two other words for love in Greek, *eros* (sexual love) and *storge* (child-to-parent love), were never used in the New Testament but became part of Christian reflection on love.

Christians believe that to *Love God with all your heart, mind, and strength* and *Love your neighbour as yourself* are the two most important things in life (the greatest commandment of the Jewish Torah, according to Jesus; cf. Gospel of Mark chapter 12, verses 28–34). Saint Augustine summarized this when he wrote "*Love God, and do as thou wilt.*"

The Apostle Paul glorified love as the most important virtue of all. Describing love in the famous poetic interpretation in 1 Corinthians, he wrote, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres." (1 Cor. 13:4–7, NIV)

The Apostle John wrote, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*" (John 3:16–17, NIV) John also wrote, "*Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*" (1 John 4:7–8, NIV)