

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

The Sixth Sunday of Easter — May 17, 2020

### First Reading — Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

<sup>5</sup> Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was much joy in that city. ... <sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; <sup>16</sup> for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20**

**R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,  
sing praise to the glory of his name;  
proclaim his glorious praise.

Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!"

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,  
sing praise to your name!"

Come and see the works of God,  
his tremendous deeds among the children of  
Adam.

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

He has changed the sea into dry land;  
through the river they passed on foot;  
therefore let us rejoice in him.

He rules by his might forever.

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare  
what he has done for me.

Blessed be God who refused me not  
my prayer or his kindness!

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

### Second Reading — 1 Peter 3:15-18

<sup>15</sup> ... but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord.  
Always be prepared to make a defense to any one  
who calls you to account for the hope that is in you,  
yet do it with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup> and  
keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are  
abused, those who revile your good behavior in  
Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to  
suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will,  
than for doing wrong. <sup>18</sup> 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;

### Gospel Reading — John 14:15-21

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my  
commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and  
he will give you another Counselor, to be with you  
for ever, <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you desolate; I  
will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while, and the world  
will see me no more, but you will see me; because

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I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> 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.”

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading — Acts 6:1-7

1. Describe the characteristics of a man or woman who is “full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.”

#### Second Reading — 1 Peter 2:4-9

2. What stands out the most to you about Peter’s description of believers?
3. How does Peter define our mission as people of faith?

#### Gospel Reading — John 14:1-12

4. What causes your heart to be troubled?
5. What assurances does Jesus provide to soothe his disciples’ fears?
6. What is the primary truth in this exchange? Why is it important?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*