

Theme: **JESUS' SPIRIT AT WORK IN US!**  
6th Sunday of Easter – 10 May 2026

My dear brothers and sisters, let's look back at the story in the first reading and let us try to walk into Samaria together today.

Now, Samaria, that was a place most good Jews avoided. Too many old hurts, too much bad blood between them and the Jews. Walls had been built up for generations. But look who shows up there: Philip the Evangelist. He doesn't hesitate. He doesn't check if it's "safe" or "comfortable." He just goes.

And what does he do? He speaks of Christ—boldly, plainly. He heals the sick. He drives out darkness. And what happens? Scripture tells us, "There was great happiness in that city."

Can you imagine that? A whole city—once avoided, once divided—suddenly filled with joy. That's what the Gospel does. It doesn't wait for people to become like us. God's love crosses every barrier—cultural, social, even the little walls we build in our own hearts.

Then Peter and John come down from Jerusalem. Now, the Samaritans had already believed. They were baptized. But something was still missing. So, Peter and John lay hands on them—and the Holy Spirit comes down.

You, see? Believing in Christ isn't just a one-time "yes" at baptism. It's a relationship that deepens. The Spirit keeps working in us, strengthening us, completing what God began. Just like in Confirmation—we receive that fuller outpouring, so we can live our faith with courage.

***So, what does this mean for us today?***

Like Philip, we're called to bring Christ into the broken places—where there's division, where there's pain, where people have grown cold. Like Peter and John, we're called to walk with each other, to lay hands, to pray, to strengthen one another. And like the Samaritans, we're invited—every single day—to open our hearts a little wider to the Holy Spirit.

In the Second Reading, St. Peter speaks to us, and he's very practical. He says: "Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you."

But listen carefully, this hope isn't about having a nice house, or a good job, or everything going smoothly. Our hope is Jesus Christ—who suffered, who died, and who rose again for you and for me.

And how do we defend this hope? Peter is clear: with gentleness and reverence.

My dear brothers and sisters, witnessing to Christ isn't about winning arguments. It's not about shouting louder or forcing someone to agree. The strongest sermon we'll ever preach is the way we live—especially when life gets hard. When we stay kind while we're hurting. When we choose to do good even when it costs us. That's when people stop and think, "What keeps him going? What hope does she have?"

Christ Himself suffered unjustly. But through that suffering, He brought life to the world. So when we face hardship because we follow Him, we're not alone—we're sharing in His love. We're becoming living proof that His love is real.

So, let's ask ourselves tonight: Can people see the hope of Christ in me? Can I speak about my faith—not with pride, but with humility and courage?

May we keep Christ holy in our hearts. May we live with integrity. And may we become joyful witnesses to the only hope that never fails.

The Gospel reading, on the other hand, invites us to reflect and come to Jesus, on the night before He died. This is His farewell talk to His disciples. And you can feel it, can't you? The room is heavy with both sadness and joy.

Sadness—because they know He's leaving. They won't see Him the way they used to. But joy too—because He promises, "I will not leave you orphans." He's coming back to the Father, yes, but He's sending the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will continue His mission. The Spirit will guide them, protect them, and stay with all of us until Jesus comes again.

Then Jesus says something so simple, yet so deep: "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, that's the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

Love and obedience—they go together. We show we love Him not just by saying "Lord, Lord," but by living His words. By doing what He taught.

Remember the parable He told? A father asked his two sons to work in the vineyard. The first said, "Yes, Dad!" but never went. The second said, "No," but then felt bad, changed his mind, and went.

Jesus asked, "Which one did the father's will?" And the people answered, "The first one." Then Jesus looked at them and said something shocking: "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of you." Why? Because even though their lives were messy, they heard Jesus, they believed, and they did what He said. That's love. That's obedience.

And isn't that our story too? We know God's commands. But how many times have we said "yes" with our lips, and then wandered off? We sin. We fall.

But here's the beauty: the Holy Spirit is always there. He whispers Jesus' words back to us. Like when you suddenly remember your mother's voice saying, "My child, be careful." We remember. We feel the tug. We realize we've strayed.

And what do we do? We gather the broken pieces. We say sorry. We come home to Jesus and to the Father's love.

This is our life, over and over—we stumble, we committed sins, we remember, we repent, we return. And sometimes we get discouraged. "Lord, same sin again. Am I even moving forward?"

But listen even that discouragement can be grace. Because it reminds us—we can't save ourselves by sheer willpower. We need Him.

That's why the Holy Spirit is called our Advocate, our Sanctifier. He lives in us. He reminds us of Jesus' words. He gives us the strength to actually live them out. We're not alone in this struggle. Not for one second.

All He asks is this: **COOPERATE**. When He nudges you to forgive—forgive. When He prompts you to pray—pray. When He tells you to get up after you've fallen—get up.

The more we stop relying on ourselves, and the more we lean on God, the softer our hearts become in the Spirit's hands. And little by little, obedience becomes easier. Love becomes real. And Jesus' promise comes alive in us: "I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."

So today, let's do this together. Let's place ourselves completely in the Spirit's hands. Let Him mold us, shapes us, until our lives look more and more like Jesus—a life of love, shown in obedience.

Because in the end, that's what the Father wants for each of us, to be like Jesus His only beloved Son. Amen.