



Liturgy Cycle A

Sixth Sunday Of Easter **Keeping His Commandments**

Introduction

Through the voice of the Church Christ says to us what he said to his apostles: 'If you love me, keep my commandments'. We couldn't possibly call ourselves his disciples if we didn't listen to his words and make an effort to live by them.

First Reading (Acts 8:5-8,14-17)

This recounts how the Good News was preached to the Samaritans. They received it with such joy and enthusiasm that it was like Pentecost all over again.

Second Reading (1 Peter 3:15-18)

Christians should be able to defend their faith. If they suffer for their convictions, let them try to bear these sufferings with the patience of Christ.

Gospel (John 14:15-21)

If we love Christ we will listen to his words and try to put them into practice in our lives.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Human beings alone among all God's creatures have the power to say no to his will. Let us pray to Christ our Brother for the wisdom and strength to do God's will rather than our own.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the pope and the bishops: that they may help the People of God to obey God's commandments not out of fear but out of love. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the government leaders: that in all their decisions they may seek to do the will of God rather than their own will. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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For those who are suffering persecution because of their following of Christ. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may never lose sight of Christ's greatest commandment, the commandment to love one another. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

Often we think we are good simply because we are not conscious of doing any great evil. But what about the things we fail to do?

Solzhenitsyn recalls, as he says, 'with shame', an incident he witnessed at the front when he was a captain in the Russian army. 'One day I saw a sergeant of the secret police, on horseback, using a whip on a Russian soldier who had been captured serving in a German unit. The man, naked from the waist up, was staggering under the blows, his body covered in blood. Suddenly, he saw me and cried out: "Mister Captain, save me!"

'Any officer in any army in the world should have put a stop to his torture, but I was a coward. I said nothing and I did nothing. This picture has remained in my mind ever since'.

'Be not simply good', says Thoreau, 'be good for something'.