

REFLECTION: I remember a time I felt I had the strength to do something good... I remember...
I remember...

I Will Not Leave You

6th Sunday of Easter
Cycle A | May 10, 2026



WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember a time when I felt that my life was over. I remember like it was just yesterday. It was a sad, but eye-opening experience. It was the day I got shot. I never thought that I would go through something like that at my age. This is the life I chose the day I decided to get jumped into the barrio.

It was just another day in the hood. I was getting high and drunk when a car pulled up and started shooting at the crowd I was in. I was with the homies and homegirls. Out of the whole crowd, I was the only one who got hit. I was shot in the hip and I dropped to the floor. It felt like it was burning me from the inside out. I started thinking about my mother, my family, and my girlfriend. I remember telling myself, "I don't even get to say goodbye?" I thought my life was over. I thought it was going to end like that. My boys picked me up and took me to the hospital. I was slowly dying, begging for them to not let me die and to drive faster, and then I passed out. I just remember waking up the next day breathing out of a machine with tubes all around me, and my mom by my side, crying.

I remember I promised her I would do my best to live up to everything she had tried to teach me, that I would be a son she could be proud of. It has been a hard fight, but today she smiles when she sees me, knowing that she will never have to worry about me being in the streets with the homies. I am a man my mother is proud of. Thank you Mom for all you have sacrificed and endured. Thank you God for allowing me to live so that my mom could have her son back.

- Austin, who was in a juvenile hall.

PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord God,
Your Son has promised not to leave us orphans. Give us the Holy Spirit of Truth, to be with us and to live in us, that we may know where we are going and that we may follow Jesus on his way to you.

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

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **Have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **Have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **Grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord God,
Today, Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit, who will help us see what we have to do to love God and our neighbor and who will give us the strength to do so. We ask Jesus to give us the Spirit of insight and strength, that this Spirit touch our hearts and move us forward to love and serve as Jesus did.

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

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OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**
R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**"

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city. Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66: 1-3, 4-5, 6-7

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

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.

"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.

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.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: With Us

(from the eyes of peter)

returning to the place
where i began arriving
at this upper room
two roman soldiers
caught sight of me
fear was paralyzing me
all i could think of were
the scenes of jesus
tortured by soldiers
of the empire

as we arrived here
everyone was stopping
asking what had
happened here
i was the leader
the one who was
supposed to be strong
but i was trembling
paralyzed by fear

we sat for hours
speaking about
what was going to
happen the project
of jesus
seemed to fade
in the background
the women seemed
so much stronger
fear had not taken over
them

here i was still terrified
of being seized
by the military
i looked deep
within myself
asking myself
how was i going
to be free?
we needed to follow

the example
of the women

this morning
we gathered to
remember the master
we would break bread
together as we sat
in the quietest hours
of the morning
a stillness filled
our room
reading the scriptures
waiting as
the watchman
waits for the dawn
sometimes i have
not wanted to get
out of bed
paralyzed by fear
paralyzed by
these past days
waiting

outside in the distance
bells sounding subtly
i felt jesus' presence
his spirit was here
i yelled out,
jesus, jesus!
something was
happening
his spirit
his strength
his vision

began to come
alive within
i could feel when
he cured the leper
i could feel when
he spoke to
the crowds
i could feel when

he walked with us
i wanted to touch him
and be with him
like we had been
at the shore
of the lake of galilee
but what we were
experiencing
was different
it was stronger
he was present
i remembered
he had told us
how he would
send the spirit

i could not think
i could not move
flowing within
fire burning strong
my whole body was
trembling
but the difference
from last night was
that i was not shaking
from fear but shaking
from the power
of jesus' spirit
finding strength within
leaving the upper room
but more importantly
forever leaving behind
fear that paralyzes
that has not
permitted me
to act or to speak
i was no longer
paralyzed by fear
rather i began to speak
telling those before me
about jesus
who was the one
we had been
waiting for

to save us
save us from
the darkness
surrounding us

all of us this morning
had been changed
each of us now spoke
with feeling
with conviction

i watched as mary
one of the women
in our group
bent down and
touched a leper
with sores oozing

jesus' spirit was
so strong that
mary embraced
this one
jesus' spirit was
working so well that
this leper was healed
joy spread over
his face instantly
my heart was so
moved by this spirit
overpowering me
that i began to
speak clearly
of my experience
of knowing jesus
burning feeling within
that the many
standing before me
would also know
this one spirit
burning within
and flowing out

