

# 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.**



# 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



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

### 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.**

### 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.**

