

Call to Worship

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

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Today is the sixth Sunday of Easter and our Scripture readings invite us to live more consciously the gift of the Spirit in our everyday lives. We are shown the way by these early communities of faith as they put into *practice* all that they had learned from the promises of Jesus.

In the gospel reading, Jesus promised that he will not leave the community orphaned. He will send another Advocate, one who will not only be *with* us but be *in* us, the abiding, indwelling presence of God. Jesus promises this as part of his deep and ongoing relationship of love with each one of us. We are never alone and we are charged to make present and visible the power of this Spirit of God in our every day lives.

In the first reading we see Philip doing just this. He was preaching and healing, and people were paying attention to these signs and wonders. Many were prayed with to receive the power of this Spirit.

In the second reading, St. Peter encourages us to be a community of courage and hope, to live the unifying presence of the Spirit, and to be prepared to speak of our hope with gentleness and reverence.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us open our hearts to the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit alive *in* us. Let us pray that as a community of faith we may speak a word of hope, rooted in love, for the healing of our world today.