



25 May 2025

6th Sunday of Easter

Year C

The Love-Filled Presence that Enlivens Us and Renews Us

The thought of an imminent separation from a person we love fills us with sadness. So it was with the disciples, after they learned from Jesus that soon they would not be able to see him any longer. But the Lord reassured them that LOVE would make up for the lack of his visible presence and would fill their lives with peace and strength.

After two thousand years, we know how true Jesus' words are. He is always present in the Church, his Mystical Body. In each of us, His presence becomes particularly real when we celebrate and receive the Eucharist, as we are about to do now. Let us open our hearts to receive in him the love of the Blessed Trinity, and to reciprocate it with the homage of our loving faithfulness. Let this Eucharist be our most treasured path towards radical newness!



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia!
(Cf. Is 48:20)

Greeting

P – The love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!
All – And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P – Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

P & All – I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly

sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(strike your breast)* through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All – Amen!

P – Lord, have mercy!

All – Lord, have mercy!

P – Christ, have mercy!

All – Christ, have mercy!

P – Lord, have mercy!

All – Lord, have mercy!

Gloria

All – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we

glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect *(Opening Prayer)*

P – Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honor of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do.

Through our Lord Jesus

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Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Acts 15:1-2,22-29
Even within the Church, life is not always smooth sailing. There may arise dissensions even among well-meaning members. The episode we are about to hear proclaimed shows us how the early Church solved such problems.

R – A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.” Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question.

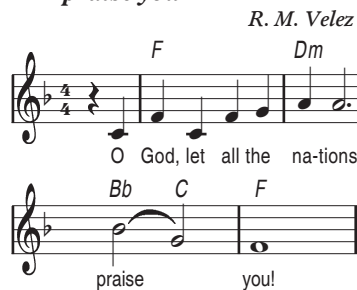
The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them: “The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number who went out without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Je-

sus Christ. So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth: ‘It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.’”

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 67

R – *O God, let all the nations praise you!*



* May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation. **R.**

* May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide. **R.**

* May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **R.**

2nd Reading Rv 21:10-14,22-23
The “New Jerusalem” seen by John in today’s vision is the Church. Resting on the foundation of the Apostles, she is the new people of God.

R – A reading from the Book of Revelation

The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Je-

rusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west.

The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

“Whoever loves me will keep my word,” says the Lord, “and my Father will love him and we will come to him.”
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:23-29
Love for Jesus and faithfulness to him are the conditions for the fulfillment of his promise that he and the Father will make their dwelling place in his disciples, and that he will send them the Holy S

P – The Lord be with you!
All—And with your spirit!

P – A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.

GLOSSARY: • **Silas:** A leading man of the Christian community of Jerusalem. He was chosen by Paul as his companion in his second journey. • **Paraclete:** A title of the Holy Spirit. This word means “Helper” and “Intercessor.” Jesus promises “another Paraclete” because he is the first Paraclete, i.e., the first one who stands by us to help us and intercede for us.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. Yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."

**The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the

Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —Aware that peace is a gift from God, as much as it is the fruit of human efforts and good will, let us implore this precious gift by saying:

All—Lord Jesus, grant us your peace!

C —For the Church, the Body of Christ: May she be an effective agent of reconciliation and sincere cooperation among all peoples. Let us pray! **R.**

C — For the Holy Father, our bishops, and priests: May they be Christ's loving presence in our world plagued by selfishness and indifference. Let us pray!**R.**

C —For the nations ravaged by war of whatever type: May their leaders realize the futility of trying to solve contrasting views by fighting and start honest negotiations for the good of all concerned. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the families divided by jealousy and conflicting interests: May all their members realize that only in mutual forgiveness can they preserve the precious treasure of peace. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For each one of us and those dear to us: May we be instruments of Christ's peace, as we do our best to live in full the demands of the Gospel. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all of us: that through work, each person might find fulfilment, that families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized. Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord Jesus, make us realize that only by keeping your word can we become instruments of your peace of the Kingdom where you live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Easter V

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to praise you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

By the oblation of his Body, he brought the sacrifices of old to fulfillment in the reality of the Cross and, by commending himself to you for our salvation, showed himself to be the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of sacrifice.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—We proclaim your Death,
O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection until you
come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are
yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

Communion

P —Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the
sins of the world. Blessed are
those called to the Supper of the
Lamb.

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

Communion Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no
Communion Hymn is sung.)*

**If you love me, keep my
commandments, says the
Lord, and I will ask the Father
and he will send you another
Paraclete, to abide with you
for ever, alleluia!**

Prayer after Communion

P —Almighty ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in
the Resurrection of Christ, in-
crease in us, we pray, the fruits
of this paschal Sacrament and
pour into our hearts the strength
of this saving food.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow your heads and
pray for God's blessing.
(Pause)

—May you become instru-
ments of unity and coop-
eration in your commu-
nity.

All—Amen!

P —May you always show
your love for the Lord by
keeping His command-

ments.

All—Amen!

P —May your hearts be
always docile to the
promptings of the Holy
Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —And may the blessing of
almighty God: the Fa-
ther, and the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, come down
on you and remain with
you for ever.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace, glorifying
the Lord by your life!

All—Thanks be to God!

Towards Radical Newness

Kalakbay at Katoto

**This week, our sights and
hopes are trained once
again toward the future.** It
was a “future” that was really
already taking place before
their very eyes, as the first
reading from Acts very clearly
shows. Divisions and distinc-
tions between Jew and Gentile
were crumbling. Gradually
taking their places were unity,
harmony, and fellowship be-
tween and among peoples of
different origins, traditions
and initial beliefs and customs.
The Gospel of the Lord was
transforming the world that can
now cry in unison: “*O God, let
all the nations praise you!*”
(Responsorial Psalm)

**Fullness, universality, inclu-
sivity, and oneness ... char-
acteristic traits of this vision
of the future that had begun
to unravel before their very
eyes, are all sealed by the
symbolic language of John:**
twelve gates, twelve angels,

twelve tribes, three gates on
each of the four corners (mak-
ing a total of 12), twelve names
of the twelve apostles of the
lamb. A glorious vision of the
heavenly city coming down
from heaven ... a city that no
more needed the sun or the
moon to shine on it, for its lamp
was the lamb ... all this rang
true for a people whose minds
and hearts had been renewed
by their faith in the Risen Lord!
Is there any language and de-
scription of our destiny that can
be more compelling than what
we have today?

**A society that has no time,
nor desire to dream could
use a bit more of this type of
language.** Our jaded and cyni-
cal generation, replete with so
much, yet bereft of depth and
appreciation for what really
matters, could do better than
wallow in the shallow reality
of everyday affairs and be led
to envision their future — God's



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future – that is unfolding in our lives.

Who says God is dead? God could not be more alive in the world today! He is busy as He had always been, transforming the world, working so that the fabled holy city of Jerusalem would come down from heaven. Who could ever imagine that in an ocean of materialism and a culture of physical comfort, small clusters and groups arise who quietly and heroically live their Christian convictions though they are unheralded, unnoticed, and unrewarded by mass media and mainstream society? Can anyone convince me that God is never present and alive in the oncology wards of countless hospitals all over the world where terminally ill patients under extreme physical suffering find mysterious strength and peace as they go through the process of dying? And can anyone give a convincing argument to so many conversions that happen every day after whole lifetimes of profligacy and sinfulness? What gives strength and courage to so many poor migrant workers who brave new cultures and strange lands just to be able to

give their families decent lives back home? What explains the so many endless sacrifices parents make all over the world just to give their children a bright future?

God is active in the world bringing about newness. What He does, though, does not translate to news delivered by major media outfits and networks.

The Gospel of today recounts a different story. The story revolves around the unity of three persons, and around what each of them does for a people whose life stories are destined for radical newness.

Jesus tells us the story of His Father. God's name, like our own names, are embedded in a story. Jesus tells us this fundamental story that He was sent *"by the Father."* He further tells us that the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is He *"whom the Father will send in my name."* The Holy Spirit has a task to fulfill, a duty that spells newness for us all: *"He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."* The *Emmanuel*, the awaited and storied One, who later became

known as *Yeshua* (Jesus) the Savior, is now the *Christos*, the *anointed One*, who fulfills all the stories that the prophets of old recounted about Him!

The story of God goes on . . . Yes, you guessed it right . . . Terrorism and wars and scandals, and the so many sob and sad stories we hear by the day from all over the world, do not have the final word. **The final chapter of God's story is not for men and women like us to write.**

There is work, though, for us to do. The story of God cannot unfold without our cooperation. "God who created us without us, will not save us without us!" (St. Augustine). We are called to love as Jesus did, to do as He did, to live as He lived: *"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."*

Here is where most stories falter. Here's where many of us fail. **Today, the Risen Lord gives us a shot in the arm: "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid! I am going away and I will come back to you!"**

Journey with our Risen Lord Jesus this Easter Season with THE TRAIL OF LIGHT

If Christmas Season has The Way of Joy, and if Lenten Season has The Way of the Cross, we have **THE TRAIL OF LIGHT** for the Easter Season.

Just like The Way of Joy and The Way of the Cross, The Trail of Light has Fourteen Stations that begins with the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus and ends with the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

The Trail of Light Prayer Book (size 4x6 inches) contains 14 wonderful illustrations of all the 14 stations. Each station has a Biblical Passage, A Short Reflection, and a Prayer.

This prayer book is used not only during the Easter Season but also during spiritual retreats when the retreatants want to relive the Easter joy, especially on the last day of their spiritual retreat.

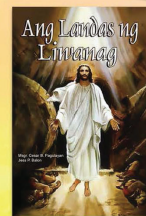
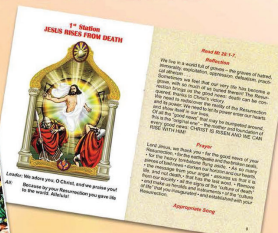
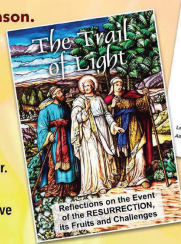


The Tagalog version, **Ang Landas ng Liwanag**, is also available.

Word and Life Publications also offers

The Trail of Light Posters (size 11.5 x 18 inches)

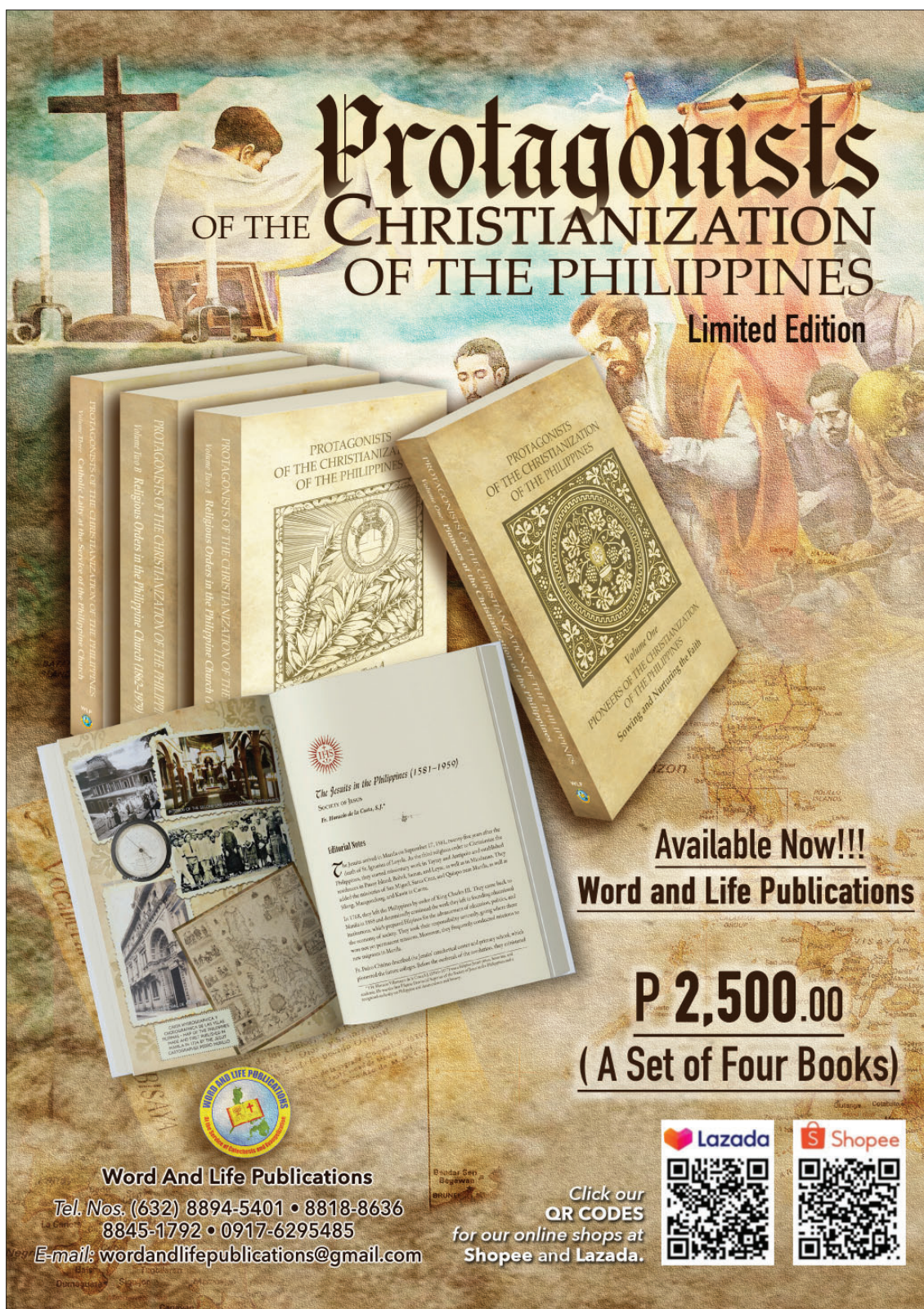
These posters are good visual aids for group prayer experience in the parish community. They can likewise be perfectly displayed in retreat houses, parish gardens, school chapels, etc.



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