

Lessons for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

Psalm 66:8-20 ~ Praise our God! let the sound of His praise be heard.

Acts 17:16-31 ~ Paul proclaimed the good news of Christ in the Areopagus of Athens.

1 Peter 3:13-22 ~ It is better to suffer for doing right, as Jesus did, than for doing evil.

John 14:15-21 ~ If we love Jesus, we will obey His commands.

GATHERING THE TEXTS: Let Me Tell You What God Has Done.

We are usually eager to relate the exciting things that are going on in our lives. It should be no different with the things God is doing and has done for us. St. Paul was not intimidated by the philosophers of Athens, but eagerly explained “the unknown” God's role in creation and redemption. Just as Noah built an ark to rescue the faithful people of God from the flood waters, we can bring people to the saving waters of Baptism by our witness. Jesus said that when we keep his commandments the love that God has placed in our hearts comes shining through! We say the same thing in another way: “We are ‘Turning Hearts to Christ Through Love.’”

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: O Spirit of the living God, give me the right words when people ask about Your love they see in my life. Help me tell anyone who asks, about Your gift of love in Christ and Your promise of life in heaven. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT - Stewardship is our act of freedom and generosity through which God works to touch with His love those suffering under the burden of sin and injustice. It is our joyful response to God's grace, not an act of obligation, duty, or social expectation.

OFFERING PRAYER: Dear Father, by our generous gifts and sincere care,
May Your love in Jesus be the message we share,
Until all the world's people, both far and near
Experience Your love to banish their fear. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: Jesus' words are hard to hear because we profess to love Him, yet find it so hard to keep His commandments. It is precisely when we are slandered and mistreated unjustly that we think we have a right to revile and strike out in anger. We fall under the same judgment as our accusers. Jesus is the one appointed, who by His death and rising again, is proven to be also the one who rescues us through the waters of Baptism. He lives in us to help us make a good confession of the hope that we have through Him.

Questions to Consider: What does love look like?

- What did St. Paul use as a point of contact to tell the Athenians about Jesus?
- How can suffering for doing the right thing make people ask about our hope?
- Where can people see God's love?
- Discuss this statement: True or false? “If you keep my commandments, I will love you.”

Bonus, continued on next page: Mother's Love – **The Love You Give Me**

I thought I saw your love, Mother,
when I brought home a good report card.
When your eyes smiled as a friend described
my courteous manner on the job,
I thought that was your love.

When I called to tell you about your new grand-baby,
I thought I heard love in your reply.
Now I know what I saw and heard
were really signs of honest pride.

I saw your love most, Mother,
when I insisted on things my way;
when I was in your face,
daring you to force my hand;
when I ignored your advice
and did what I wanted anyway.
Often I implied that I knew better than you;
sometimes I even said that right out loud!
I thought you cried because
you could not control my will.
Now I know you shed your tears because
I pushed myself from your love.
I saw your love most then, Mother,
but I did not know what it was.

Your love always wants the best for me
even when I do not know what that is.
Your love still embraces me even when I am
not courteous but disrespectful,
not accomplished but lazy,
not generous but selfish.
Those are the times I see your love, Mother,
because it is something I do not deserve,
something I cannot win from you,
something you can only give me.

Now I know,
your love is not a measure of my worth;
your love is the gift of my value
that comes from your heart.

I have come to know love, Mother,
because you love me;
you have taught me to love.
The love I am able to give others,
you first gave to me.
I learn from your example;
I am filled with your gift.

Gilbert A Franke, May 1994 (revised May 6, 2015)