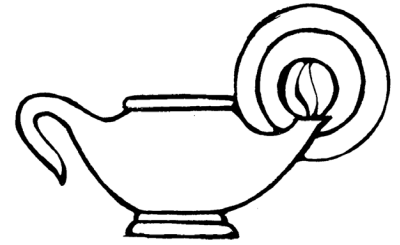


Opening Prayer: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* “*The Book of Common Prayer,*” Collect 28, page 236. *Alternative prayer: Sixth Sunday of Easter, page 174 or 225.*



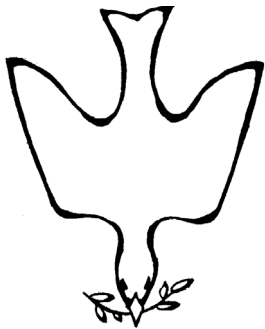
Review of Last Week’s Lesson: Last week’s lesson emphasized that through our baptism with the Holy Spirit, God lives in us and we in him. In Acts 8, Philip met the Ethiopian on a road in the desert where he had the opportunity to help the Ethiopian understand the Scripture he was reading and to be baptized. The verses we read in Psalm 22 offered praise to the Lord. In I John 4, we were reminded to love one another. In John 15, Jesus declared that he is the “true vine.” He used the illustration of the vine to explain that pruning does not have a negative effect on a vine. In fact, it causes a vine to bear more fruit. This illustration emphasized that when we abide in the Lord and he in us, we bear fruit.

**Year B, Lesson 23
The Sixth Sunday
of Easter**

TODAY’S SCRIPTURES:
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
I John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

TODAY’S THEME:
Love one another as
Christ loves you.

MEMORY VERSE:
John 15:12



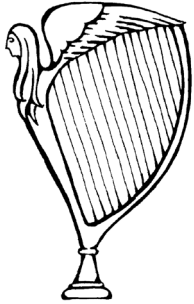
Background Notes: Acts 10:44-48 ✦ Peter, with a group of Christians from Joppa, went to the home of Cornelius and preached the Gospel to Cornelius and everyone in his household. While he was there the Holy Spirit “fell upon all who heard the word.”

Questions:

1. Describe the reaction of Peter’s followers when the Holy Spirit “fell upon” Cornelius, his family and the members of his household who heard Peter’s message. (Acts 10:44-45) _____

2. What was the reason this was such a surprise for the Christians who accompanied Peter? (Acts 10:45-46) _____

3. What did Peter do after the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit? (Acts 10:47-48) _____



Background Notes: Psalm 98 ❖ The psalmist strongly encouraged the people to shout praises to God, the Lord and King.

Questions:

1. What did God do that inspired the psalmist’s praise? (Ps. 98:1-3) _____

2. What effect did God have on the house of Israel? (Ps. 98:3) _____

3. What did the psalmist tell the worshipers and all of creation to do in order to express their joy? (Ps. 98:4-8)

4. In what way do we accomplish this in our churches today? _____

5. What does verse 9 tell us about judgment? _____



Background Notes: I John 5:1-6 ❖ The King James Version of I John 5:1 says, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.” Hence, the reference to Christians being “born again.”

Questions:

1. What does one do to become a child of God? (I Jn. 5:1) _____

2. **Challenge Question:** The meaning of “born again” has been altered by time and use. Explain the difference between the Biblical meaning and our secular culture’s meaning of being “born again.” _____

3. What behavior demonstrates our love for fellow Christians? (I Jn. 5:2) _____

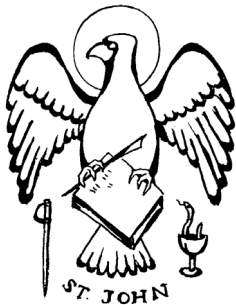
4. In what way are we to display our love of God? (I Jn. 5:3) _____

5. What effect does our love of God have on our relationship to the world? (I Jn. 5:4) _____

6. What do you think “overcome the world” means? (I Jn. 5:4) _____

7. Read I John 5:6 along with John 19:33-34. What significance do you find when comparing these verses?

8. What does blood symbolize to you? What does water symbolize to you? _____



Background Notes: John 15:9-17 ❖ John told us that Christian love has a divine nature, that God is love, and those who live in this love live in God and God lives in them.

Questions:

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples about abiding in his love? (Jn. 15:9-10) _____

2. What commandment did Jesus give the disciples in verses 12 and 17? _____

3. What is the greatest demonstration of one person's love for another? (Jn. 15:13) _____

4. What did Jesus tell us so that we would know that we are his friends? (Jn. 15:14-15) _____

5. Compare John 15:16 and I John 4:19. What similar actions do you find in these verses? _____

6. What kind of "fruit" do you bear for the Lord? (Jn. 15:16) (personal answer). _____

Closing Prayer: Lord, we thank you for loving us and for choosing us to be part of your family. We thank you for the love you showed us when you allowed your Son to be a living sacrifice for our sins so that we will have eternal life with you. We thank you for the love that Christians have for one another. We ask you to forgive us when we fail to love. We ask you to help us when we find it very difficult to love certain people. Strengthen our ability and desire to love. Change our attitude toward those people we dislike to one of love, respect and concern. *Amen.*

Application For Next Week: God commands us to love one another. This is easier for some of us than for others. We all live in different environments and have different people coming and going in our lives. We are not always going to agree with everyone, but God does not ask us to always agree. He asks us to love one another. There are circumstances under which this can be very difficult, or even seem impossible. There may be people in your life who are very difficult for you to love. Ask God to help you find a way to change your attitude toward them.

