#### LSW

children

Year C

##### Sixth Sunday in Easter

**Image**

Goodbye gifts

Souvenirs

**Points to note**

Although the priestly prayer of Jesus in this reading takes place before crucifixion, he nevertheless is praying for the time that he will be going away. It was his parting prayer for his friends whom he will have to leave behind when the Passion commences.

It is easy to refer the children to the goodbyes they have gone through and concentrate on how they express these goodbyes. The key to this reading is that Jesus prays for his disciples to stay together. He helped them do this by leaving the Holy Spirit with them.

**Liturgy**

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus said: “If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him”

Alleluia!

## Gospel

The Lord be with you.

*All:*  And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John

*All:*  Glory to you O Lord

(Jn 14:23-29)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

and my Father will love him,

and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own:

it is the word of the one who sent me,

I have said these things to you while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,

whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give to you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You hear me say: I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad

to know that I am going to the Father,

for the Father is greater than I, I have told you this now before it happens,

so that when it does happen you may believe.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Discussions**

Have you ever had a relative or friend who came from abroad to stay with your family for a while? *Let the children talk about who and what did they do here.*

Can you tell us what did you do when they went away? *Say goodbye. Begin to draw them out into the various ways people have a farewell: perhaps, a dinner, a trip to somewhere fun, a shopping trip to buy something somebody wanted, etc.*

Sometimes, the person going away is someone very close to us and we feel sad that they are going. Is there anything we do soften the departure? *Leave a souvenir that will remind them of each other: photos; gifts; etc. Sometimes, it is not something tangible: it could be a promise of a gift or a promise to return soon; a memorable night out.*

*Explain that in the reading, Jesus was going away. Explain the Ascension and that he was planning to send the Holy Spirit to be a comforter to the Apostles. That was his gift to the Apostles. Discuss the effects of the Holy Spirit. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, strength, knowledge, piety and respect for the Lord. Explain to the children that the Sunday after next is Pentecost, which is when we celebrate the Apostles receiving the Holy Spirit.*

*Try to create the atmosphere that next week is when Jesus is going to give us a going away gift. Let’s have some idea from the children of what we would like from God and see how close are these ideas are from the gifts of the spirit.*