

5th Sunday of Easter (A)
Jesus, We Place Our Trust in You

Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you with the words of the responsorial psalm: "Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you" (Ps. 33:22).

This beautiful prayer entrusts us to God's mercy. The words of our Lord Jesus in the Gospel offer a profound response to this prayer. He tells us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God; have faith also in me."

Amid life's burdens—financial strain, family struggles, health crises, misunderstandings, conflicts, and uncertainty—Jesus invites us to trust Him. Let us draw strength from this invitation.

First, when worry weighs heavily, our Lord Jesus gently invites us to trust him. His words become a lifeline, urging us to let go of anxiety and lean on faith. We struggle, exhausted by overthinking and bearing burdens alone, yet he lovingly calls, "Trust me." Sometimes we act as if happiness and security depend solely on ourselves or on the world's fleeting promises. But faith liberates us: we are not God, and that is freedom—such relief. God sees beyond our vision and quietly works even when confusion clouds our hearts. St. Padre Pio said, "Pray, hope, and don't worry." Faith lets our weary souls rest in God's trustworthiness. When everything feels overwhelming, let your heart pause and whisper: "Lord, I trust You."

Second, in a world where everything fades—where joy and pain dissolve and stability teeters—Jesus promises a home that endures. He said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places..." Fear of losing loved ones, comfort, or life itself often steals our peace. But Jesus gently reminds us: this world is not our forever home. Though we struggle, strive, and dream, all earthly things slip away. Yet his promise remains: "I go to prepare a place for you." Imagine—he prepares not just any room, but a place uniquely yours, crafted with love. Our Lord sets it apart for us.

God makes His dwelling with us, preparing and leading us to our eternal destiny. "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man... he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people" (Rev. 21:3-4). St. Paul proclaims that we are a chosen race, a holy nation, a people of His own. We are invited to live faithfully in God's presence. If we do, no matter what we lose—even in heartache and frailty—it is not the end; something better awaits.

Finally, in a world of confusion and deception, Jesus shows us the way. He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Today, so many voices tell us what to do, what to believe, and how to live. It can be confusing. But our Lord Jesus doesn't just give instructions or advice—He gives Himself. "I am the way, the truth, and the life." It is His perpetual invitation. "I am the way"—He invites us: "Walk with me." "I am the truth"—He invites us: "Listen to me." "I am the life"—He invites us: "Stay with me."

With this invitation, we see that Christian faith is not just about a set of laws and rules. It is about a relationship with the risen Lord Jesus. If we walk with Jesus, listen to him, and stay close to him, we may not have all the answers—but we will not be lost. He also promised that we will do great and meaningful things. We see this in the story of the early followers of Jesus in the Acts of the Apostles. They grew in number, cared for one another, and thrived in adversity because they walked with Jesus, listened to him, and stayed close to him.

This relationship comes to life in moments of profound faith. I recall administering Holy Anointing to a nun dying of cancer. The infirmary was dimly lit as I entered. After the sacrament, I gently asked, "How are you, sister?" Unable to speak, she smiled, slowly nodded her head, and moved her lips toward the crucifix on the wall. Though her gestures were limited, they showed she was not alone; she was with Jesus. Her life—spent in prayer, even on her deathbed—became a witness to Jesus. Despite her condition, her faith offered a profound witness to trusting and placing oneself before the mercy of God.

As you carry burdens, whatever troubles your heart—bring them to the Lord. Hear His gentle assurance: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." With Jesus, you are never isolated, never astray, and always cherished. Embrace His promise, trust fully, and let your heart rest and hope in His mercy, where comfort surrounds you.

"Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you" (Ps. 33:22).

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