

Yr 2 Sunday after Ascension (Fathers of Nicea) Lesson, John 17:1-13

Opening Prayer: Sing the joyful song – [Alleluia!](#) – Click here to hear it and sing along.

Gospel: [John 17:1-13](#) – Click here to read the Gospel or [listen to it here](#).

Lesson: God is always with us, so we are filled with Joy!

In the Gospel, Jesus was talking to his disciples before he was arrested and taken away to be crucified. Jesus was praying for his friends. What did he pray?

- He prayed that after he went back to His Father, we in the Church would be close friends to each other and love each other just like He and His Father!

- He prayed that we have joy in our lives. Joy is something that we feel in our hearts because we know all of the wonderful things that God has already done for us and has promised us.

Do you remember that Jesus said he would be sending a helper when He ascended to heaven? (See the lesson of the Feast of the Ascension) This helper was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings love and joy. We call these “fruits(gifts) of the Holy Spirit. (*To the teacher: There are 9 fruits/gifts of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control Gal 5:22-23*” read [Christ Our Pascha, Paras: 719-722](#)).

When others see the love that we have for each other and the joy we have in our hearts, they will know that we are filled with the Holy Spirit! They will know that we are Christians! We must always pray that the Holy Spirit help us to be loving and full of joy. Let’s all remember that even when we are sad, we can still have joy in our hearts because we know that God loves us so much and is always with us no matter what! It also gives us joy to know that Jesus will be coming back!

You may want to sing the song [“They will know we are Christians by our love”](#) - Click to hear it.

Craft: JOY page.

In Church: Alleluia is a joyful song. Listen for it and whenever you hear it sing joyfully with everyone because we know that the Holy Spirit is with us and Jesus will never leave us alone!