

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Acts of the Apostles 8:5–8, 14–17 † 1 Peter 3:15–18 † John 14:15–21



**Reflection by: Mary Lanni, OPA**

The message of today's readings could not be more well-timed or comforting as the world reels from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. There is so much fear, anxiety and insecurity about this invisible enemy that has entered our lives, we might be inclined to think, "Could God have abandoned the world?"

Jesus, on that last night before his death, knew that his disciples were emotionally in the same condition as we are today. They realized that Jesus would be killed and that they would be left without the source of their strength and commitment. But he did not abandon them; he gave them the great gift of himself in his beautiful, loving promise:

*I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you....On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you.*

Those words come down to us through the centuries and give us the courage to meet the difficulties encountered in today's world. Do we not see Jesus present in the nurses, doctors, first responders and thousands of others taking care of those who don't have food or shelter or services that they need? Jesus, when asked about the important commandments of God, replied, as only second to honoring God, to love thy neighbor as thyself. It is being fulfilled all over.

God has not abandoned the world. God is hard at work making it better.