

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May Ascension Day**

Below are Readings and Prayers for this week.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Collect**

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.

#### **First Reading Acts 17, verses 22 - 31**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

#### **Second Reading 1 Peter 3 verses 13 - end**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **Gospel Reading John 14 verses 15 – 21**

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

## **Psalm 66 7 - end**

who rules by his might forever,  
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—  
let the rebellious not exalt themselves. *Selah*  
Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.  
For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.<sup>[a]</sup>  
I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
those that my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. *Selah*  
Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.  
I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.  
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
But truly God has listened;  
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.  
Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

### **Collect**

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever.

### **First Reading Acts 1 verses 1 – 11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### **Gospel Reading Luke 24 – 44 - end**

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## **Psalm 93**

The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty;  
the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength.  
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;  
your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.  
The floods have lifted up, O LORD,  
the floods have lifted up their voice;  
the floods lift up their roaring.  
More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,  
more majestic than the waves<sup>[a]</sup> of the sea,  
majestic on high is the LORD!  
Your decrees are very sure;  
holiness befits your house,  
O LORD, forevermore.