

The Collect and Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Today's Readings

First Reading Acts 11:1-18

Peter describes his vision of all the animals and birds, which God tells him he can eat. This is an indication that Gentiles can be accepted into the new Christian Church.

Second Reading Revelation 21:1-6

John sees a vision of a new heaven and a new earth, and the one seated on the throne says "See, I am making all things new."

Gospel John 13:31-35

Jesus tells the disciples they cannot follow where he is going and gives them a new commandment, that they love one another as he has loved them.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the apostles.

¹The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” ⁸But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

¹ Alleluia! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

² Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; ⁸ Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will; ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² Young men and maidens, old and young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Alleluia!

Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the book of Revelation

¹I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**