

## Readings for May 2016

May 1

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
(Rogation Sunday)**

**COLLECT:**

Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

**Acts 16:9-15**

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us

**PSALM 67** (read responsively by whole verse)

**[BCP 675]**

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

**2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.**

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.

**4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.

**6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

7 May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**THE GOSPEL****John 5:1-9**

After Jesus healed the son of the official in Capernaum, there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids-- blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

**May 8****The Seventh Sunday of Easter****The Sunday after Ascension Day****COLLECT:**

Let us pray. O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

**A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES****Acts 16:16-34**

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

**PSALM 97** (read responsively by whole verse)

**[BCP 726]**

1 The LORD is King;  
let the earth rejoice; \*  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

**2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.**

3 A fire goes before him \*  
and burns up his enemies on every side.

**4 His lightnings light up the world; \*  
the earth sees it and is afraid.**

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, \*  
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

**6 The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
and all the peoples see his glory.**

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images  
and delight in false gods! \*  
Bow down before him, all you gods.

**8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

9 For you are the LORD,  
most high over all the earth; \*  
you are exalted far above all gods.

**10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; \*  
he preserves the lives of his saints  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

**12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, \*  
and give thanks to his holy Name.**

**A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN**

**Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

At the end of the visions I, John, heard these words:

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."  
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."  
And let everyone who is thirsty come.  
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

**THE GOSPEL**

**John 17:20-26**

Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

**May 15**  
**The Day of Pentecost**  
**(Whitsunday)**

**COLLECT:**

Let us pray: O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

**Acts 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

    `In the last days it will be, God declares,  
    that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
        and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
    and your young men shall see visions,  
        and your old men shall dream dreams.  
    Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
        in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
        and they shall prophesy.  
    And I will show portents in the heaven above  
        and signs on the earth below,  
        blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
    The sun shall be turned to darkness  
        and the moon to blood,  
        before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
    Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

**PSALM 104:25-35, 37** (read responsively by whole verse)

**[BCP 735]**

25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! \*  
    in wisdom you have made them all;  
    the earth is full of your creatures.

**26 Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.**

27 There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.

**28 All of them look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.**

29 You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

**30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.**

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; \*  
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.**

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

**34 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; \*  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

35 May these words of mine please him; \*  
I will rejoice in the LORD.

**37 Bless the LORD, O my soul. \*  
Hallelujah!**

#### THE EPISTLE

**Romans 8:14-17**

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

#### THE GOSPEL

**John 14:8-17, 25-27**

Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in

me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"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 have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

**May 22**

**The First Sunday after Pentecost**

**Trinity Sunday**

**COLLECT:**

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE**

**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**

Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?  
On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;  
beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:  
"To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.  
The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth--  
when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.  
When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,

when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race."

**PSALM 8** (read responsively by whole verse)

**[BCP 592]**

1 O LORD our Governor, \*  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

**2 Out of the mouths of infants and children \*  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.**

3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, \*  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

**4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, \*  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? \*  
the son of man that you should seek him out?

**6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; \*  
you adorn him with glory and honor;**

7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; \*  
you put all things under his feet:

**8 All sheep and oxen, \*  
even the wild beasts of the field,**

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, \*  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

**10 O LORD our Governor, \*  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!**

**THE EPISTLE**

**Romans 5:1-5**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Jesus said to the disciples, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

**May 29**  
**The Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**COLLECT:**

Let us pray. O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE**

**1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43**

Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart.

"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name -- for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm-- when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built."

**PSALM 96** (read responsively by whole verse)

**[BCP 725]**

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

**2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

**6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

## **THE EPISTLE**

**Galatians 1:1-12**

Paul an apostle-- sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead-- and all the members of God's family who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ. For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

## **THE GOSPEL**

**Luke 7:1-10**

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.