

## MAY 5, 2013 - 6 EASTER YEAR C

THE LESSON: 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.

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 67 *Deus misereatur*

- 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.

THE EPISTLE: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

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 14:23-29

JESUS SAID to Judas (not Isacriot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. 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. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

## MAY 12, 2013 - 7 EASTER YEAR C

THE LESSON: Acts 16:16-34

ONE DAY, as we (Paul and his traveling companions) 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.

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 97 *Dominus regnavit*

- 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.

THE EPISTLE: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

JESUS SAID, "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.

## MAY 19, 2013 - THE DAY OF PENTECOST, YEAR C

THE LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

WHEN THE day of Pentecost had come, they 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.'"

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 104:25-35, 37b

- 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. 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.

MAY 26, 2013 — TRINITY SUNDAY, YEAR C

THE LESSON: 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.”

THE EPISTLE: Romans 5:1-5

THEREFORE, 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.

THE GOSPEL: John 16:12-15

JESUS SAID to his 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.”

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 8

- 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!