

## Readings – Seventh Sunday Of Easter 29-05-2022

### Sentence

God has raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named.

Ephesians 1.20–21

### Collect

God of majesty,  
you led the Messiah through suffering into risen life,  
and took him up into the glory of heaven:  
clothe us with the power promised from on high,  
and send us forth to the ends of the earth  
as heralds of repentance and witnesses of Jesus Christ,  
the firstborn from the dead, who lives with you now and always  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **Acts: 16: 16-34**

Our first reading is taken from Acts, Chapter 16 Beginning at Verse 34

<sup>16</sup> One day, 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.' <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to

them. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' <sup>31</sup> They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> 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.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 97

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 97. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice: let the multitude of islands be glad.
- <sup>2</sup> **Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**
- <sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him: and burns up his enemies on every side.
- <sup>4</sup> **His lightnings light the world: the earth sees it and quakes.**
- <sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before his face: from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> **The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness: and all peoples have seen his glory.**
- <sup>7</sup> They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings: all gods bow down before him.
- <sup>8</sup> **Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced: because of your judgements, O God.**
- <sup>9</sup> For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth: you are exalted far above all gods.
- <sup>10</sup> **The Lord loves those that hate evil: the Lord guards the life of the faithful, and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**
- <sup>11</sup> Light dawns for the righteous: and joy for the true of heart.
- <sup>12</sup> **Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous: and give thanks to his holy name.**

## Revelation 22: 12-22

Our second reading is taken from the Revelation, Chapter 22, beginning at Verse 12

<sup>12</sup> 'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work.

<sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.

<sup>16</sup> '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.'

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book;

<sup>19</sup> if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **John 17: 20-26**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 17, beginning at Verse 20, **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>20</sup> 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> 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.'

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