

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21st MAY 2017

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 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. 24 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, 25 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. 26 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, 27 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. 28 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.’ 29 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. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 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.”

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 66.8-20

A.P.B.A pages 286-287

8 Bless our God, O peoples:
let the sound of his praise be heard,
9 who has kept us among the living:
and has not let our feet slip.
10 For you, O God, have tested us:
you have tried us as silver is tried.
11 You brought us into the net:
you laid burdens on our backs;
12 you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water:
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.
13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings
I will pay you my vows:
14 those that my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
15 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*
16 Come and hear, all you who fear God:
and I will tell what he has done for me.
17 I cried aloud to him:
and he was extolled with my tongue.
18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart:
the Lord would not have listened.
19 But truly God has listened:
he has given heed to the words of my prayer.
20 Blessed be God:
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3.13-22

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
14 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, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 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. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 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, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 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. 21 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, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel

John 14:15-21

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

‘Those who love me will keep my word,’ Jesus promises, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

John 14.23

Prayer of the day

O God,
you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Supplementary Readings

Acts 8.14-25

Psalm 66.1-8

Revelation 11.15-19

Prayer Response

Lord, you abide in us.

May we know we abide in you.