

Readings + Fifth Sunday of Easter, year C + May 18, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then 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. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from ‘Cornelius, a centurion in’ Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six believers also accompanied me, and we entered the ‘centurion’s’ house. ¹³ ‘Cornelius’ told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the

beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how Jesus had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If 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?” ¹⁸ When 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.”

Psalmody Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise,
all you hosts of heaven.**
Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all
you shining stars.
**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you
waters above the heavens.**
Let them praise the name of the LORD, who
commanded, and they were created,
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law which shall not pass away.**
Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters
and all deeps;
**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous
wind, doing God’s will;**
mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and
flying birds;**
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes
and all rulers of the world;
**young men and maidens, old and young
together.**
Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose
name only is exalted, whose splendor is over
earth and heaven.
**The LORD has raised up strength for the
people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading Revelation 21:1-6

¹ Then I 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. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them;

they will be God’s peoples,

and that very God will be with them and be their God;

⁴ God 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.”

⁵ And 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.” ⁶ Then the One seated on the throne 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.”

Holy Gospel John 13:31-35

As with all the Sundays of Easter this year, we have a reading that is only in John. Although Jesus commands love in the other Gospels as well, notably Matthew 22, Mark 12, and Luke 10.

³¹ When ˆJudasˆ had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son-of-Humanity has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in God’s own self and will glorify him at once.

³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the others so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”