

Sunday 28 April 2024 Fifth Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus
Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the
gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before
us you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be read as
either the First or Second Reading.*

Either Acts 8:26-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get
up and go toward the south to the road
that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
(This is a wilderness road.) So he got up
and went. Now there was an Ethiopian
eunuch, a court official of the Candace,
queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her
entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem
to worship and was returning home;
seated in his chariot, he was reading the
prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to
Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join
it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him
reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do
you understand what you are reading?"
He replied, "How can I, unless someone
guides me?" And he invited Philip to get
in and sit beside him. Now the passage of
the scripture that he was reading was this:
"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth. In his

humiliation justice was denied him. Who
can describe his generation? For his life is
taken away from the earth." The eunuch
asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you,
does the prophet say this, about himself or
about someone else?" Then Philip began
to speak, and starting with this scripture,
he proclaimed to him the good news
about Jesus. As they were going along the
road, they came to some water, and the
eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is
to prevent me from being baptized?" He
commanded the chariot to stop, and both
of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down
into the water, and Philip baptized him.
When they came up out of the water, the
Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the
eunuch saw him no more, and went on his
way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at
Azotus, and as he was passing through the
region, he proclaimed the good news to all
the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Or Baruch 3:9-15, 32 - 4:4

Or Genesis 22:1-18

PSALM Psalm 22:25-end

R Be not far from me, O Lord.

From you comes my praise in the great
congregation;

I will perform my vows

in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise him;

their hearts shall live for ever. **R**

All the ends of the earth

shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow
before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's

and he rules over the nations. **R**

How can those who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel
before him?

He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for
generations to come.
They shall come and make known his
salvation,

to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 John 4:7-end

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because
love is from God; everyone who loves is
born of God and knows God. Whoever
does not love does not know God, for God
is love. God's love was revealed among
us in this way: God sent his only Son into
the world so that we might live through
him. In this is love, not that we loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we
also ought to love one another. No one
has ever seen God; if we love one another,
God lives in us, and his love is perfected
in us. By this we know that we abide in
him and he in us, because he has given
us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do
testify that the Father has sent his Son as
the Saviour of the world. God abides in
those who confess that Jesus is the Son of
God, and they abide in God. So we have
known and believe the love that God has
for us. God is love, and those who abide
in love abide in God, and God abides in
them. Love has been perfected among us
in this: that we may have boldness on the
day of judgement, because as he is, so are
we in this world. There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has
to do with punishment, and whoever fears

has not reached perfection in love. We love
because he first loved us. Those who say,
"I love God," and hate their brothers or
sisters, are liars; for those who do not love
a brother or sister whom they have seen,
cannot love God whom they have not seen.
The commandment we have from him is
this: those who love God must love their
brothers and sisters also.

Or Acts 8:26-end

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true
vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He
removes every branch in me that bears
no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he
prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have
already been cleansed by the word that I
have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide
in you. Just as the branch cannot bear
fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you unless you abide in me. I
am the vine, you are the branches. Those
who abide in me and I in them bear much
fruit, because apart from me you can do
nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is
thrown away like a branch and withers; such
branches are gathered, thrown into the fire,
and burned. If you abide in me, and my
words abide in you, ask for whatever you
wish, and it will be done for you. My Father
is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit
and become my disciples."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the
truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



Be not far from me, O Lord.