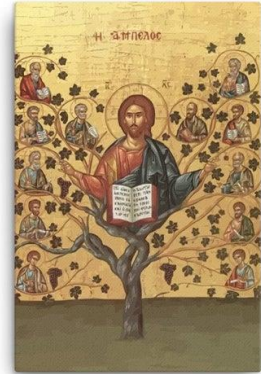


WORSHIP AT HOME
SUNDAY 2nd May.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type. If alone, read all the words aloud. You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at. You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still



Preparation.,

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of love,
May we abide in your presence and so abide in your love:
As we freely receive your love,
let us freely share with others all that you have given to us;

Silence is kept

O God of peace,
whose Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
was brought back from the dead to be the great Shepherd,
grant that we may be lead by him out of darkness and death
into the fulness of life eternal;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in all eternity. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere heart.

**Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy upon us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of forgiveness

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name, **Amen.**

The 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. **Amen.**

The Word of the Lord

First reading – Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading John 15: 1-8

'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.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of faith.

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness,
He humbled himself, and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name:
and at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words, or be prompted by the words here)

Father of all, we pray for your Church, that it may be a caring, loving and accepting church. We pray for the outreach of your Church, that it may seek out the needy, the outcasts and the rejected: that love may be revealed in action.....we come with sorrow for all who have been denied freedom or peace. We pray for places where communities have been destroyed, where families have been divided or separated, for children who have lost contact with their parents. We remember all who seek to heal that which divides..... we give thanks for the areas where people can exercise their talents, where people are free to think and to act without hindrance. We pray for all those who are enriching the world with their gifts. We pray for families and for friends..... we think of all those whose lives have been marred by their past: for lives destroyed by bad memories, hatred guilt or resentment; for all who are weary of life, who are tired of serving others. In the power of the risen Lord we ask for renewal, refreshment, restoration.....Lord of all life and love, we praise you for for all who have borne fruit in your service, for all who have forwarded your kingdom, for all who have shared their love and goodness. We pray for our loved ones departed.....and lastly Lord we commit to you ourselves, our families and our loved ones.....

The Lord's prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
Now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Grace.

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

This week's readings; -

Monday: Psalm 118: 1-3, 14-15, John 14:21-26

Tuesday: Psalm 145: 10-end, John 14:27-end

Wednesday: Psalm 122:1-5, John 15:1-8

Thursday: Psalm 96:1-3,7-10, John 15: 9-11

Friday: Psalm 57:8-end, John 15:12-17

Saturday: 100:, John 15:18-21

