

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Bible Readings next week 13 May 2018**

**Sunday after Ascension**

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26. Psalm 1 1 John 5.9-13 John 17.6-19

**Prayer for the Week**

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant that we may walk in his way,  
rejoice in his truth,  
and share his risen life;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God:  
Phyllis Ramsden, Myra Lesley Douglas, Peggy Shannon,  
Edgar Chandler, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**There are no commemorations but a major Feast this week:**

Thursday: Ascension Day 10.15am Holy Eucharist

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**6 May 2018**

**Sentence** Jesus said, 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.' *John 15.16*

**Collect**

God abiding love, you chose us as your servants  
and dare to call us friends:  
take our fragmented hearts, commanding them to love,  
making whole our joy, our life reborn in you;  
through Jesus Christ who laid down his life for us. **Amen.**

**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*Peter had recently had the experience of discovering that the good news is for all, not just the Jewish people. Now he finds that the gift of the Holy Spirit comes upon the Gentile, Cornelius. This is a radical shift in Peter's world! It leads to conflict among the believers but eventually is resolved with the inclusion of all peoples in the baptismal covenant God makes with us. If this were not so, you and I would first have had to become Jewish before we could be followers of Jesus. The idea that God's love extended to all nations was first heralded by the prophets in their visions of the whole world acknowledging God.*

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he

ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*Acts 10.44-48*

Reader For the word of the Lord

**ALL Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 98 at 8am APBA page 325 at 10.00am TiS 56**

*This psalm is a hymn celebrating God's sovereignty over the whole earth and all its peoples.*

**A Reading from the first letter of John**

*John makes his final appeal to believers to love one another. It is a hallmark of Christian community. The witnesses – water, blood, Spirit – are already evident in John's account of Jesus' death as atonement for sin which is taken away by the Lamb. True faith is not only based on human testimony but on God's also.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

*1 John 5.1-12*

Reader May your word live in us.

**ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor All who love me will keep my words: and my father will love them and we will come to them.

**ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reader The Lord be with you

**ALL And also with you**

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The emphasis in John's gospel is on what has been done for us – God has loved us and so there is only one response: that we love one another. Though we struggle to believe that God's love is unconditional and without strings, that is the truth we are invited to accept! There is only one response to such love: imitation of it in community.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*John 15.9-17*