

## Sunday 15 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

### 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.

### First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup>The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>‘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. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” <sup>8</sup>But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.” <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>17</sup>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?’ <sup>18</sup>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.’

## Psalm 148

Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels; \*praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; \*praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, \*and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; \*for he commanded and they were created.

He made them fast for ever and ever; \*he gave 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 mist, \*tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills, \*fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, \*creeping things and birds on the wing;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, \*princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and women, old and young together; \*  
let them praise the name of the Lord.

For his name only is exalted, \*his splendour above earth and heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, \*  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

## Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

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

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup>he 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.'

<sup>5</sup>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.'

<sup>6</sup>Then he 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.'

### **Gospel: John 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup>During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

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