

READINGS

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God,

whose love for us shines through our Saviour Christ,

send your Spirit of Truth to dwell within us,

that we may know your truth

and live according to your will;

through the same Jesus Christ,

the resurrection and the life,

who lives and reigns with in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Creator,

your Spirit infuses our worship

through word and sacrament.

May we who have received the Spirit

be strengthened to do your will,

in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood up before the council of the Ar-e-op-agus and delivered this address:

Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I walked about the city looking at your shrines, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown God.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you: The God who made the world and everything in it, the Creator of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is served by human hands as if needing anything, since, indeed, it is this God who gives life and breath to everyone—and to all things.

From one person this God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, allotting the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God, perhaps groping for and finding God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. For 'In God we live and move and have our being'; and, as even some of your own poets have said, 'We too are God's children.'

Since we are God's children, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. Having overlooked the times of human ignorance, now God commands all people everywhere to repent, because a day has been fixed on which the world will be judged in righteousness by One whom God has appointed. Of this God has given assurance to all—by raising him from the dead.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:7-18

Bless our God, you peoples;
let the voice of God's praise to be heard;
**Our God, who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
**You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
**but you brought us out again
into a place of refreshment.**

I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and I will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

**I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
**I called out to God with my mouth;
God's praise was on my tongue.**

If I had found evil in my heart,
God would not have heard me;
**but in truth God has heard me;
and has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

Blessed be our God,
who has not rejected my prayer,
**nor withheld from me
even love eternal.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Now if you are eager to do what is good, who will harm you? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what others fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as your Sovereign.

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do so with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:15-21

The Lord be with you.

And with Thy Spirit.

*The Holy Gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.*

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

God be with you.

And also with you.

*The Good News
of Jesus Christ
according to John.*

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples:

If you love me,
 you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
 who will give you another,
 an Advocate to be with you forever.
This is the Spirit of truth,
 whom the world cannot receive,
 because the world neither sees God's Spirit
 nor knows God's Spirit.
But you know God's Spirit, who abides with you,
 and indeed, will dwell within you.

I will not leave you orphaned;
 I am coming to you.
In a little while the world will see me no longer,
 but you will see me;
because I live, you will live also.

On that day
 you will know that I am in my Father,
 and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them
are those who love me;
and those who love me
will be loved by my Father,
and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.