

READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

OPENING PRAYER

God of power and might,
in the mystery of the Ascension
you have glorified your Son Jesus Christ,
exalting him to your right hand.
Confirm the Good News
proclaimed by your Church,
so that when Christ returns in glory
all nations may be gathered into your realm,
where he lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,
may we who share Christ's banquet
be one with him as he is one with you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our risen and ascended Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and he said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold through David concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.

"So one of those who have accompanied us during all the time that our Saviour Jesus went in and out among us—beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."

So they proposed two, Joseph called Bar-*sab*-bas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "O God, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go his own way."

Then they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

Happy are they
who have not taken the counsel of the wicked,
**nor walked in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the place of scoffers.**

Their delight is in God's law,
on which they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season,

with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so among the wicked;
they are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand when judgment comes,
nor sinners in the company of the righteous.

For God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but the testimony of God is much greater; for this is God's testimony, given as evidence of God's Son. Those who believe in God's Son have the evidence in their hearts. Those who do not believe have made God a liar by refusing to believe in the testimony that God has given concerning this One.

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in God's Only-begotten Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in God's Only-begotten, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 17:6-19

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, "Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

"I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

"And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that my joy may be made complete in them.

"I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.