

ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE COLLECT

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: ACTS 16:16-34

Paul has entered Europe for the first time and is now in Philippi. He, Silas and Timothy visit the Jewish community, which meets “by the river”, perhaps at an outdoor “place of prayer”. Jesus exorcised evil spirits during his earthly ministry. Now Paul rids a slave girl of a demon. In leaving her, the demon’s parting words are the truth of salvation.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Acts, Chapter 16, beginning at the sixteenth verse.

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and

brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for

we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The Word of the Lord

The people: *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 97

A hymn to the awesome Lord and Ruler who brings the fire of judgement and light for the righteous.

- 1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah
rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *

he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son: *
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now: *
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING:

REVELATION 22:12-14,16-17,20-21

John comes to the end of God's revelation to him. Jesus now speaks, identifying the risen Christ with God: he, and God, are both the beginning of creation and the end of it. Those who share with Jesus in being made "white", that is, free of sin – by his sacrificial death – are blessed.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Revelation to John, Chapter 22, beginning at the twelfth verse.

At the end of the visions I, John, heard these words:

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

The people: *Thanks be to God.*

THE GOSPEL - JOHN 17:20-26

After the Last Supper and before walking to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays to the Father for his followers and those whom they will bring to Christ.

Gospeler: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Gospeler: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

This is the Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.

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