

**GOSPEL LESSON**—John 16:12-22

This week and next, we read from John 16. This discourse was delivered in the upper room at the last meal. According to John it was not on the day of Passover, since Jesus was killed on the day of Passover. (In the Gospel of John, Jesus was killed at the same hour that the lamb was prepared for the Passover meal. It is very ironic.) John 16 has been read on the 5th Sunday of Easter from as far back as I can determine. Jesus was preparing the disciples for His death, and then when they had Him back, Jesus was going to leave them in His Ascension. We wait (with all the disciples) to receive the joy promised to us in His Second coming.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Ⓢ Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You sent Your Son into the world, not to be ministered to, but to minister and give His life as a ransom for many. You raised Him by Your glory when He had offered the one sacrifice for sins forever. Grant us a sure faith in Jesus, that we may possess the blessed expectation of eternal life.

O Father of Lights, for all spiritual and intellectual illumination and for the revelation of Your divine truth in Jesus Christ, we thank You. Grant that all who are of the truth may come to Him. Pour out on us Your Spirit, so that through the engrafted Word, He would guide us into all truth by making known the mysteries of Your will, the unchangeable purpose for the raising of fallen man, and the pure and perfect doctrines that pertain to our eternal salvation.

Anoint Your Church, O God, with the Holy Spirit and with all Your power from on high. Hold before us the wonder of Jesus Christ, both our High Priest and the sacrifice given and shed to take away our sin. In worship and work allow us to proclaim Your Word and testify that You are the One God of the universe and Jesus is the One Lord for our life and the life of the people of the world. Help us show our gratitude by encouraging one another to love and good works.

Send Your truth into the far reaches of the Earth, to all people wherever they may be, that they may know Christ's power over sin and hell and His victory over the grave. If any have trouble, care or sorrow, endow them with the joy and peace of a pure faith, the quietness and confidence of a true love, and the wondrous expectation of a heavenly rest.

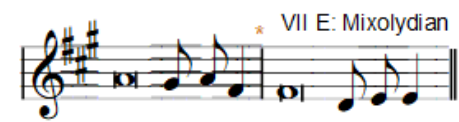
Hear us as we bring to you our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**

Help us now and always to receive Your gifts with gratitude. Hear our prayers. Grant us Your grace, and receive us into everlasting communion with You; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

© **Amen.**

**EASTER FIVE**

**Chant Tone**



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| <p><b>Introit</b></p> <p>Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done   marvelous things!*</p> <p>His right hand and His holy arm have worked salva   tion for Him.</p> <p>The Lord has made known His sal — vation;*</p> <p>He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the — nations.</p> <p>He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of — Israel.*</p> <p>All the ends of the Earth have seen the salvation   of our God.</p> <p>Make a joyful noise to the Lord,   all the Earth;*</p> <p>break forth into joyous song and sing — praises!</p> | <p>Sing praises to the Lord   with the lyre,* with the lyre and the sound of — melody!</p> <p>With trumpets and the sound   of the horn*</p> <p>make a joyful noise before the   king, the Lord!</p> <p>Glory be to the Father and   to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen.</p> <p>Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done   marvelous things!*</p> <p>His right hand and His holy arm have worked salva   tion for Him.</p> <p><i>(Antiphon, Psalm 98:1; Psalm 98:2-6)</i></p> |
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**Collect of the Day**

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**Gradual**

Christ has risen | from the dead\*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and — honor,

You have given Him dominion over the works | of Your hands,\*

You have put all things un | der His feet.

*(Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)*

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**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** O Lord God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, we Your children in Christ Jesus, come before You with hearts filled with gratitude and praise. We thank You that we have been chosen by You to be the people who are appointed to eternal life, we have been recreated in the new covenant through the blood of Your Son. Send us Your Holy Spirit that He will strengthen our faith and help us to show that we are Christians by our love. Make everything we say or do show that we abide in Christ and that He abides in us as it is His Love that allows us to love one another. All this we ask in His name. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

**"THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE THAT CANNOT SEE."**

That is a quote of a quote of a quote. The first time I heard it was in the movie, "Butterflies Are Free." It seems to be much older and is often incorrectly claimed to be from the Bible. As He was preparing for the dual events of His Death and Ascension, Jesus was preparing the Apostles for the time He would no longer move among them. Jesus explained that when He ascended He would send them the Holy Spirit. They got caught up in the issue of a "little while," Jesus was preparing them for the remainder of their life. We are blessed in that, through the work and the person of the Holy Spirit, we have been able to "see" Jesus in the power of the Word of God.

**THEME OF THE DAY:**

Gentiles Are Granted Repentance

**INTROIT**—(Antiphon: Psalm 98:1;) Psalm 98:2-6

We are going backward, forward and staying the same this week. The Introit is new, the First Lesson has been changed because we have reestablished the theme of Easter 5, with the Gospel Lesson getting back to the historic lessons of John 16. (This is an interesting change. In the former revision we uncomfortably, used the Maundy Thursday command to love one another as our theme. We have gone back to the historic theme of the Gentiles being the New Testament church.) Psalm 98 is identified only as "A Psalm" without identifying the author. In verse 1, we are singing a new song. Basically it meets our (reestablished) theme in that the Gentiles are singing the New Testament song of salvation. In verses 2-6 we proclaim the wonder that God has revealed Himself to us.

**COLLECT**

This is the historic prayer for this day. "Your faithful, (being) of one will," include all the believers beginning with Adam and Eve. We connect ourselves to all believers as we fix our hearts on thoughts of Heaven.

**FIRST LESSON**—Acts 11:1-18

Acts 11 continues the explanation that the Gospel went out into the world. Sadly it took the martyrdom of Stephen and the persecutions to push the message to all the corners of the world. Even Peter needed a "push" from God to take His Word to the Gentiles. The "circumcision party" was an undefined group who obviously didn't want the Gentiles to believe. Peter gave us two verses that should always inspire us to help people receive the truth: "Who am I that I should stand in God's way?" and "The Gentiles have been granted repentance that leads to life."

**GRADUAL**—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

We use this same Gradual for all of Easter. It is a compilation of Scripture, with a statement of the Resurrection (generically from Matthew,) followed by a statement concerning the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father (Hebrews,) and the fact that Christ controls our Salvation (Psalm.)

**EPISTLE LESSON**—Revelation 21:1-7

What a scene! Evil has been vanquished, its agents relegated to the lake of fire. Former things have vanished, the final judgment is completed. The fact that John said this new Earth contains no sea, is a poetic analogy because the "sea" often contains negative qualities in the Bible. (Jesus says that one who causes a child to sin should be thrown into the sea. Mark 9:42 along with other verses) God is with us in this "New" world. The bride is the New Testament Church. Now the dwelling of God is with us, because in the flesh His Son saved us.