

Readings, Collect and Year's Mind for Sunday 17th May 2020
Easter 6

The Collect for Easter 6 is:

O God, from whom all good things arise: grant such grace to those who call on you, that, by your inspiration, we may ponder those things that are right, and, by your guidance, do them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

In our Year's Mind this week, we pray for:

Mabel Dunne, Nora Griffiths, Maisie Anderson, Fiona Brock

The First Reading is from: Acts of the Apostles 17. 22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, 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, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, 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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 66. 7–18 (Book of Common Prayer)

7. O praise our God ye people; and make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8. Who holdeth our soul in life; and suffereth not our feet to slip.
9. For thou O God hast proved us; thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.
10. Thou broughtest us into the snare; and laidest trouble upon our loins.
11. Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.
12. I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings and will pay thee my vows, which I promised with my lips, and spake with my mouth, when I was in trouble.
13. I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks and goats.
14. O come hither, and hearken all ye that fear God and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.
15. I called unto him with my mouth; and gave him praises with my tongue.
16. If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart; the Lord will not hear me.
17. But God hath heard me; and considered the voice of my prayer.
18. Praised be God, who hath not cast out my prayer; nor turned his mercy from me.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 66. 7–18 (Revised Common Lectionary)

7. Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of his praise to be heard.
8. Who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.
9. For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.
10. You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11. You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12. I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13. I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.
14. Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for me.
15. I called out to him with my mouth, and his praise was on my tongue.
16. If I had found evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;
17. But in truth God has heard me; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
18. Blessèd be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his love from me.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Second Reading is: 1 Peter 3. 13-22 (This is being read by Andrew Sikes)

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Gospel Reading is: John 14.15-21 (This is being read by Angie Saunders)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

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

Give thanks to God for this his glorious Gospel. *Praise be to You Christ our Lord.*