

St Martin's Church, North Nibley - Sunday 16th May 2021

A Service of the Word for Easter 7: the Sunday after Ascension Day

Gathering as the People of God

Welcome in the name of Christ!

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

The president introduces the service.

News and Notices

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **He has given us new life and hope.**

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

All **He has brought us out of darkness.**

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia**

Preparing for the Word

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.

God's word is for all of us.

May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

You may like to open a Bible and light a candle near it

The Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, **16** ‘Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus — **17** for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’

21 So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** 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.’ **23** So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. **24** Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen **25** to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ **26** And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Gospel Reading

John 17:6-19

6 ‘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. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; **8** 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. **9** 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. **10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. **11** 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. **12** 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. **13** But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. **14** 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. **15** I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. **16** They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family

in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith,

and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Praying for Ourselves

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:
Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The president declares God's forgiveness.

May the God of love and power
forgive *us* and free *us* from *our* sins,
heal and strengthen *us* by his Spirit, and raise *us* to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

Praying for Others

The prayers of intercession are followed by:

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Going out to serve the Lord

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Blessing

The blessing is followed by:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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