

# Readings and Prayers for 9 May 2021: EASTER 6

## Acts 10:44-48

*Jewish Christians were initially doubtful whether non-Jews could be baptised without first adopting Jewish customs such as circumcision. Peter was the first to receive God's word that this was not necessary.*

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

## Psalm 98

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of  
the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and  
faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.

<sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy

<sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

## 1 John 5:1-6

*John explains the relationship between love and God's new law brought in by Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.

And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## John 15:9-17

*Jesus talks to his disciples before his death about love and friendship.*

Jesus said, <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

## Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.