



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 25 MAY 2025 – Easter 6**

**COLLECT**

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us  
to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Psalm 67**

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us ♦  
and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth, ♦  
your saving power among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ♦  
for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ♦  
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ♦  
and God, our own God, will bless us.
- 7 God will bless us, ♦  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

## **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 16, verses 9-15.**

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:***

The second reading is from John, chapter 14, verses 23-29.

***and then at the end:***

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

***For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel. Everywhere except Fitz introduces it with an Acclamation (the blue bit), and then we all use the introduction and ending (the green bit):***

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, Chapter 14, verses 23-29.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

***And then at the end:***

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## John 14. 23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

## ***A Reflection from Peter***

If you glance at Chapter 14 of John's Gospel there is much that is familiar. All kinds of words come to mind: comforting, peaceful, Holy Spirit, going, being at home. But the more we look, the more puzzling it is. Near the beginning of this passage Jesus says, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.' If you don't think about it too much, this sounds good news: Jesus will be right there with you – and the Father too! But it reminds me of the moment when the mother of a friend of mine announced one day, "I'm beginning to forget things, dear, and so I'm selling up and moving in with you!" Ellen immediately felt conflicted. She loved her mother, but could she really cope with having her life turned upside down like this? Would she be able to cope? Did her mother really know what she was asking?

This is helpful for us. This Gospel passage leaves us in no doubt. Saying yes to resurrection life is no small thing. It's not a matter of taking out a subscription for a gym or a magazine where we remain in control. It's up to us to choose whether to make much or little use of the gym, whether to read the magazine or not. Signing up to the resurrection is saying yes to a relationship – not just with the risen Christ, but with all those who have also said yes to resurrection (and that takes some getting used to, as well as requiring some careful thought before we say yes)!

And this is not just about life now. It is also inviting us to begin to become accustomed to the shape of the new creation, to learn what it is to live in eternal life – in that dimension where hearts are no longer troubled, where there is no more crying, but only joy, peace and love. In this sense, resurrection life now is our preparation for what comes after death, where we can be confident of only one thing: God is there and God is love.