

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

(1 May 2022)

Acts 9:1–22

Revelation 5:(1–7) 8–14

John 21:1–14 (15–19)

The Good Shepherd Feeds His Lambs

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain” (Rev. 5:12), who by His cross has conquered sin and death. With His blood, He has *“ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation”* (Rev. 5:9). This same Lord Jesus visits people of all nations and calls them to Himself by the Gospel, even as He *“was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead”* (John 21:14). He restored Simon Peter to faith and life, and He commissioned him to feed His lambs and tend His sheep (John 21:15–17). Likewise, He revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance, so that the persecutor of Jesus might carry and confess His name *“before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel”* (Acts 9:15).

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(8 May 2022)

Acts 20:17–35

Revelation 7:9–17

John 10:22–30

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from the Father and became flesh among us in order to rescue us, His sheep. He laid down His life for us and took it up again in order to give us eternal life. By the preaching of His Gospel, He calls His sheep to Himself and keeps them with Him forever. As they hear His voice and follow Him, *“they will never perish”* (John 10:28), for *“no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand”* (John 10:29). In the same way, faithful pastors (literally, “shepherds”) *“care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood”* (Acts 20:28), *“testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Acts 20:21). Therefore, with all the company of heaven, the Good Shepherd gathers His flock in worship, as they cry: *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* (Rev. 7:10).

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(15 May 2022)

Acts 11:1–18

Revelation 21:1–7

John 16:12–22 or John 13:31–35

Jesus Turns Sorrow into Joy

On earth *“you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy”* (John 16:20). Already the Spirit grants you peace and joy through the forgiveness of your sins. For by the cross of Christ, *“God has granted repentance that leads to life”* (Acts 11:18). His Gospel is *“a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household”* (Acts 11:14). He gives freely *“from the spring of the water of life”* (Rev. 21:6), *“and death shall be no more”* (Rev. 21:4). He dwells with His people, adorning His Church as a bride for her husband, *“making all things new”* (Rev. 21:5). Therefore, as the Son of Man is glorified by His cross, *“and God is glorified in him”* (John 13:31), so He is glorified in us by our *“love for one another”* (John 13:35), which His Spirit works in us by His grace.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(22 May 2022)

Acts 16:9–15

Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27

John 16:23–33 *or* John 5:1–9

We Pray to the Father in Jesus' Name

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus has opened the way to the Father so that *"whatever you ask of the Father"* in Jesus' name, *"he will give it to you"* (John 16:23). We pray, therefore, in the confidence that we will be heard and answered, that our *"joy may be full"* (John 16:24). We pray because the Gospel has been preached to us and the Lord has opened our hearts to believe the Gospel (Acts 16:10, 14). We pray in the name of Jesus because we have been baptized into Him, as Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15). We have been healed, and we live and walk and pray in newness of life (John 5:8–9). For we stand upon the firm foundation *"of the twelve apostles of the Lamb"* (Rev. 21:14), and our temple is *"the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb"* (Rev. 21:22).

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

(26 May 2022)

Acts 1:1–11

Ephesians 1:15–23

Luke 24:44–53

Christ Ascended Is with You Always

In His resurrection, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, *"appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God"* (Acts 1:3). Then He ascended to the right hand of the Father, not orphaning His Church, but filling all things in heaven and on earth, and giving gifts to His disciples. So today, He continues to preach *"repentance for the forgiveness of sins"* (Luke 24:47) through *"the apostles whom he had chosen"* (Acts 1:2), even *"to the end of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). Jesus comes among us today by His Word and Spirit, whom He pours out upon *"the church, which is his body"* (Eph. 1:22–23). In His Church, He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself *"in the heavenly places"* (Eph. 1:20).

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(29 May 2022)

Acts 1:12–26

Revelation 22:1–6 (7–11) 12–20

John 17:20–26

Jesus Is with Us in His Holy Christian Church

On the night when He was betrayed, Jesus interceded for His Church — for His apostles and all who believe in Him through their word — that all of His disciples *"may become perfectly one"* in the Father and the Son (John 17:21–23). For Jesus became flesh and dwells among us in order to reveal the Father and His name, to share with us the glory of His righteousness, and to bring us to the Father in Himself. As the Father loved the Son from *"before the foundation of the world"* (John 17:24), so He loves the whole world (John 17:23, 26). Through the apostolic witness to the Baptism, cross and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 1:21–22), the Lord gathers His disciples throughout the world *"with one accord"* as one body in Christ (Acts 1:14). And so with one voice and by one Spirit, His Bride prays, *"Come"* (Rev. 22:17). And He comes to us. He gives us *"the water of life without price"* to wash our robes and quench our thirst (Rev. 22:17); He feeds us from *"the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit"* (Rev. 22:2).