

## **Today's Readings** **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** **Easter 5**

### **THE COLLECT**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love  
for the world and the wonder of  
your risen life:  
give us compassion and  
courage to risk ourselves for  
those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **FIRST READING**

#### **Acts 8.26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship<sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.<sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'<sup>31</sup> He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.<sup>32</sup> Now the

passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.'<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.<sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?'<sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.<sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **SECOND READING**

#### **1 John 4.7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.<sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.<sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.<sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.<sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world.<sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.<sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.<sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world.<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has

to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.<sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.<sup>20</sup> Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.<sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

### **GOSPEL**

#### **John 15.1-8**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.<sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.<sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.<sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever

you wish, and it will be done for you.<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

### **PSALM 22.25-31**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.<sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.<sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.<sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.<sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,<sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever.