

EASTER TO TRINITY SUNDAY



Revised Common Lectionary /Scripture Citations for Year C - All Seasons

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/calendar/2024-25/?season=all&download=txt>

Welcome to the last leg of the Liturgy journey for year C: Easter to Trinity Sunday. Our hope is that individuals as well as group/class members will make use of this devotional material as it not only reflects the Sunday sermons but ensures that we take our learnings deeper. We do this with scripture readings, daily devotions, reflections on scripture and questions. May you hear His truths, ensure it is transformative and experience God's love for you personally.

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- Week 1: Sunday 20 April - The empty tomb.
- Week 2: Sunday 27 April – Jesus appears to his disciples.
- Week 3: Sunday 4 May – Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish.
- Week 4: Sunday 11 May – Further conflict over Jesus's claims.
- Week 5: Sunday 18 May – Jesus predicts Peter's denial.
- Week 6: Sunday 25 May – The healing at the pool.
29 May – Ascension Day
- Week 7: Sunday 1 June – Jesus prays for all believers.
- Week 8: Sunday 8 June – Jesus the way to the Father.
- Week 9: Sunday 15 June – Trinity Sunday.



Week 5: Sunday 18 May *Jesus predicts Peter's denial*

Bring God into the meeting with prayer, lighting a candle, listening to a worship song.

Power of your love: <https://youtu.be/mjfyq7N7Keo>

Read the Bible readings provided:

Liturgical Date: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Calendar Date: May 18, 2025

First reading: *Acts 11:1-18

Psalm: Psalm 148

Second reading: Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel: John 13:31-35

John 13:31-35

New International Version - UK

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ 'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

A reflection on the Bible reading by: **YVONNE ROBERG**

In this portion of scripture Jesus provides his disciples with a command to "Love one another, as I have loved you, so must you love one another". Craig Keener makes the startling statement that this command includes a "readiness to die: to love as Jesus did would require that the disciples would be prepared to lay down their lives

for one another. Furthermore, Jesus highlights that this countercultural behaviour would act as a testimony to everyone else that these men were indeed his disciples. This command is the one that Jesus uses to define this new community of his, the church. The world is invited to see the truth of God's goodness and love through the disciples' love for one another and others. Brennan Manning notes that, "We should be astonished at the goodness of God, stunned that He should bother to call us by name, our mouths wide open at His love, bewildered that at this very moment we are standing on holy ground."

This love, if it is to follow Jesus's love must be sacrificial. And so, we may ask, what is sacrificial love? Jesus's sacrifice on the cross demonstrates God's agape love for mankind. Although we are underserving to receive such love, he nonetheless still freely offers it as a gift to us. It is in this light that we as Christians are called to demonstrate love to others. When we truly appreciate how underserving we are of God's grace, love and forgiveness this truth penetrates through our hardened hearts, our pride, our self-righteousness and we become transformed into Christlikeness, and we too become able to love a little more like Jesus did.

Christ's sacrifice is humbling. When we allow ourselves to consider Christ's selfless love for us, all the qualms that we have with one another should fade into insignificance. This new awareness should enable us to then act with compassion and maturity. We become mindful of what it means to forgive a debt to the undeserved, we accept others more readily despite all their flaws, we choose to do our best to love those who really "push our buttons" or offend us. We become transformed into the best version of ourselves and so witness to this world that Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of all.

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Questions for group discussion:

1. When and by who have you really felt loved?
2. What do you think about Jesus's sacrificial love demonstrated by the cross?
3. What might be some of the barriers that you experience in trying to love others as Jesus did?
4. Can you partner with someone in prayer and seek the Holy Spirit's transformative power so that your love can witness Christian truth to others?

Daily lectionary readings:

Monday, May 19, 2025: [Psalm 133; 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42; Acts 11:19-26;](#)

Tuesday, May 20, 2025: [Psalm 133; 2 Samuel 1:4-27; Acts 11:27-30;](#)

Wednesday, May 21, 2025: [Psalm 133; Leviticus 19:9-18; Luke 10:25-28;](#)

Thursday, May 22, 2025: [Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:1-5; Acts 15:36-41;](#)

Friday, May 23, 2025: [Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:6-8; Acts 16:1-8;](#)

Saturday, May 24, 2025: [Psalm 67; Proverbs 2:9-15; Luke 19:1-10;](#)

FAMILY TIME:



Written by Magogodi Nkuna

Week 5 - **Read: John 13:31-35**

Before Jesus left his disciples, he gave them a final command: to love one another. He said that if they did this, people would know they were his followers.

This command is still important for us today. So, how can we show love to one another?

- Be kind and supportive to fellow believers
- Care for those in need
- Forgive and show compassion
- Build each other up with encouraging words

By loving one another, we show the world that we are truly followers of Jesus.

Discuss as a family

How else can you show love to other followers of Jesus?

Close in prayer.