

Reading for Weekday in the Sixth Week of Eastertide

May 13th 2026

First reading

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1

‘What you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.’

In those days: Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: “To the unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way towards him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for, “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring”. Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 148:1-2. 11-13a. 13c-14. R cf. 12a, 13a

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

or: Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,

young men and maidens as well, the old and the young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord. His splendour above heaven and earth.

He exalts the strength of his people.

He is the praise of all his faithful, the praise of the children of Israel,

of the people to whom he is close.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:16

Alleluia, alleluia.

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,
to be with you for ever.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 16:12-15

‘All that the Father has is mine; the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

There is only so much that people can learn at one time. The great life-truths take a long time to absorb. This is certainly true about faith. We enter into it gradually, over time, with the unfolding experience of life. In today’s gospel Jesus announces that he has many things to say to them but that they are not ready for them yet.

The Paraclete, the Spirit of Truth, who will be sent to them in the future, will reveal these things to them and will lead them towards the complete truth. The Holy Spirit will lead us to the complete truth, about Jesus, God, our world and ourselves. This is a life-long journey. Indeed, we will never attain the complete truth in this life. We are always on the way. We can never truly say, “I know it all.” Rather, we must always leave ourselves open to being led by the Spirit ever more closely towards the complete truth, towards the one who said of himself, “I am the truth.”