

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

Psalm

Since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another.

Second Reading

'Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.'

Gospel

Eternal Father, reaching from end to end of the universe,
and ordering all things with your mighty arm:

for you, time is the unfolding of truth that already is,
the unveiling of beauty that is yet to be.

Your Son has saved us in history by rising from the dead,
so that transcending time he might free us from death.

May his presence among us lead to the vision of unlimited truth
and unfold the beauty of your love.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:

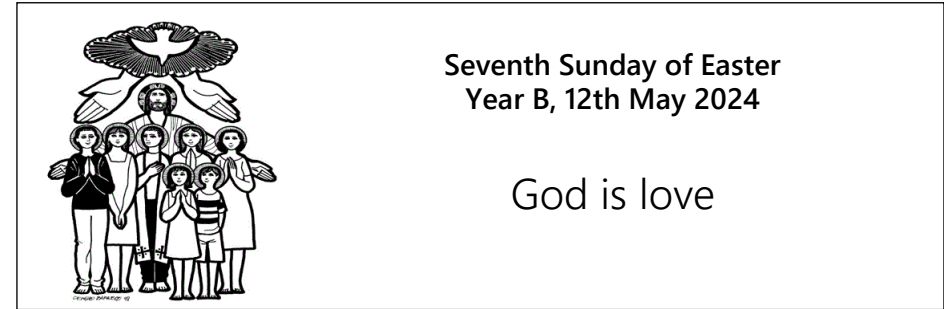
Acts 1: 15–17.20–26; Psalm 102 (103); 1 John 4: 11–16; John 17: 11–19



'Consecrate
them in
the truth'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



On this Sunday, which comes between the Ascension and Pentecost, we continue to follow the development of the infant Church and return to St John's theme of God's love for us.

In the **First Reading** from the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples come together to discern and pray, so as to choose an apostle to replace Judas. The lot falls to Matthias.

The **Psalm** is a hymn of praise and describes the love of God that covers the whole universe.

The **Second Reading** emphasises that God's love for us is the reason and example for our love for each other. As long as we do this, God will live in us, and will share his Spirit with us.

In the **Gospel**, taken from Jesus's priestly prayer to the Father, Jesus prays that the disciples will remain true to his name. As the Father sent Jesus into the world, so he now sends his followers. May they be united in faith and love.

The readings lead us to contemplate the love and unity within the Trinity, a fitting preparation this week as we look towards Pentecost.



Opening Prayer

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.

Second Reading 1 John 4: 11–16

My dear people,
since God has loved us so much,
we too should love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
but as long as we love one another
God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.
We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us
because he lets us share his Spirit.
We ourselves saw and we testify
that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world.
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,
God lives in him, and he in God.
We ourselves have known
and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves.
God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God,
and God lives in him.

I come to my place of prayer and I consciously place myself in God's presence. I breathe gently, relaxing and allowing other thoughts to slip away. I let this presence fill me.

I remain quiet under God's loving gaze.

I read the Scripture slowly, letting the simplicity of the words uncover the amazing message.

What strikes me most as I read this passage?

Perhaps I ponder God's love for me, and pray to be ever more convinced of it, so that I can love others with this same love.

I speak to the Lord about this.

I may also ask to understand more fully the reality of God's living in me. In what way have I sometimes felt the Spirit at work in me?

As I prepare, this week, for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, I thank the Father for sending his Son into the world, and ask him to deepen my faith.

I end my prayer in gratitude with an *Our Father*.

Gospel John 17: 11–19

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
'Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures.
But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full.
I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world.
I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.
Consecrate them in the truth: your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

Aware that Eastertide is drawing to a close, I come to pray, thinking gently of my Easter journey. How do I feel?

I turn to the risen Lord, aware of his presence and his all-embracing love in and around me.

When I am ready, I read the text. Jesus prayed these words towards the end of the Last Supper. He was praying for his disciples, he was praying for me.

With him I read the words again, applying them to myself.

How do I react? I speak to the Lord from my heart.

I ponder Jesus's relationship with his Father. He wants me to be part of that unity and to share it with others. How can I do this?

Facing his Passion, Jesus still wants to share his joy with us.

What joy is this? In what way can I be part of it?

Jesus also asks the Father to consecrate us in the truth.

Perhaps I can join in this prayer as I contemplate how I can share in his mission.

I pray for my community and those dear to me, and end with a '*Glory be ...*'