

Background to scripture readings for May 2016

Sunday May 1

Acts 16:9-15 Paul has set out on his second missionary journey. He, Silas and Timothy have now arrived at Troas, a seaport from which ships sailed to Europe. Lydia is baptized.

Revelation 21:10,22-22:5 An angel shows St. John the heavenly Jerusalem, open to all people of faith from all nations, where the glory of God fills the whole community.

John 14:23-29 Jesus continues to prepare his followers for his departure. Loving Jesus implies obeying Jesus. God will send the holy Spirit to remind us about Jesus' and his teachings

Sunday May 8

Acts 1:1-11

Acts begins where Luke's Gospel ends, with a small overlap. St. Luke is the author of both the Gospel and Acts. Both books are written to a Theophilus which means *lover of God*.

Ephesians 1:15-23

St. Paul has written of God making known to us, in Jesus, God's plan for the restoration of the faithful to relationship with him. Both Jews and Gentiles share in this plan.

Luke 24:44-53

After his resurrection, Jesus has appeared to his followers. He reviews with them what he means for them and then is taken into the presence of God.

Sunday May 15

Acts 2:1-21 It is now fifty days since Easter. Many pilgrims are Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks. St. Luke tries to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit, but all he can say is what it is *like*. It, to some extent, is beyond our language and comprehension.

Romans 8:14-17 Paul has told us that Christian living is centred in life in the Spirit. People are still subject to suffering and affliction, but not to condemnation. Not being condemned, we have hope.

John 14:8-17,(25-27) Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure. Jesus has told them that the only way to God is through him. By knowing him, followers also know the Father.

Sunday May 22

Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31

Wisdom cries out to all people. She is of divine origin and was created before God began creating the world. She witnessed creation, and came to know its secrets.

Romans 5:1-5

Paul has written that union with God, which he calls *justification*, comes through faith. We have peace, all the benefits of a right relationship with God, through Christ. Christ is the link between us and the Father.

John 16:12-15

After the Last Supper, Jesus continues to tell the disciples about the mission they are to undertake. The “Spirit of truth” is the Holy Spirit. He will be sent to the disciples, and to the Church, by Christ “from the Father”.

Sunday May 29

1 Kings 18:20-21,30-39

Many people in Israel prefer worshipping foreign gods (including Baal), to worshipping the one true God.

Galatians 1:1-12

Paul writes to the churches of Galatia, in central Asia Minor. While it was usual for Paul to include a note of thanksgiving for the Christian community, in this letter he does not.

Luke 7:1-10

Jesus goes to the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where he has taught many. This event is the first of several in which Jesus demonstrates that his message is for all who respond positively to it.