

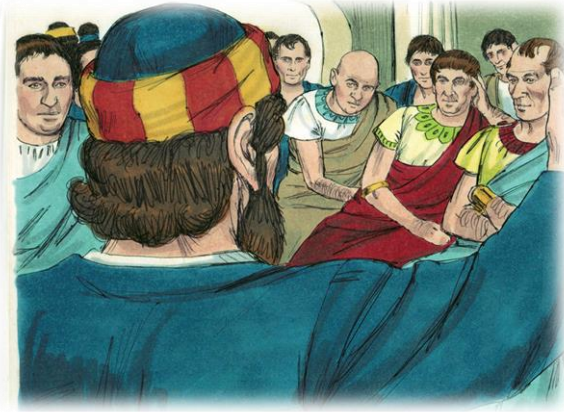
# Worship at Home – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prepared by Rev Gareth Erlandson, Curate

### **Prayer to start**

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us  
from the power of darkness and  
brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death  
he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence  
in us he may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



### **Bible Reading (Acts 10:37-48)**

[Peter said,] You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything Jesus did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

## ***Thought***

On Good Friday, we travelled alongside the disciples as they encountered the trauma of witnessing the horrific death of Jesus, their master and friend. Since then, we have continued to walk with them as they have met the Risen Christ in gardens and locked rooms – the Bible also records encounters on dusty roads and sandy beaches.

Such meetings helped Jesus' followers overcome the grief and anguish they would have felt at the crucifixion and inspired them to establish Christ's global body – the Church. This reading from Acts is a key step in that establishment, as Peter realises (following a rather obscure dream involving some “unclean” animals and a sheet earlier in chapter 10) the salvation Christ secured on the cross and the hope of his resurrection is a reality for everyone – Jew or Gentile. The only thing anyone need do to access this hope of salvation is to repent – to turn to God and believe in the power of Jesus to save us (his name literally means “God saves”).

As we emerge from what is hopefully the worst of the trauma caused by the pandemic, we are called, as Jesus' followers today, to rebuild and recover based on the foundation of hope that the Risen Christ offers us. This will not be a quick road to walk but, like those first disciples, we can do this in fellowship; we can inspire each other and come alongside each other, sharing our grief and our hopes. When the disciples worked together, inspired by the resurrection hope, they overcame their trauma and began the wonderful work of the church. What good things can we do if we work together, inspired by that same hope? Why not start a little conversation with a fellow church member about your hopes and dreams for the future?

## ***Prayers to end***

May we bear fruit for God, fruit that will last. As Christ has loved us, so may we love one another, and abide always in God's love, that our joy may be complete. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Please do get in touch if you want to talk about anything.*

*Services this Sunday:*

*Morning Worship at 11am in Hope (book with Liz)*

*Morning Worship at 11am in St John's (book with Ann)*

*God bless – Adam (01978 760439) and Gareth (07731 827988).*