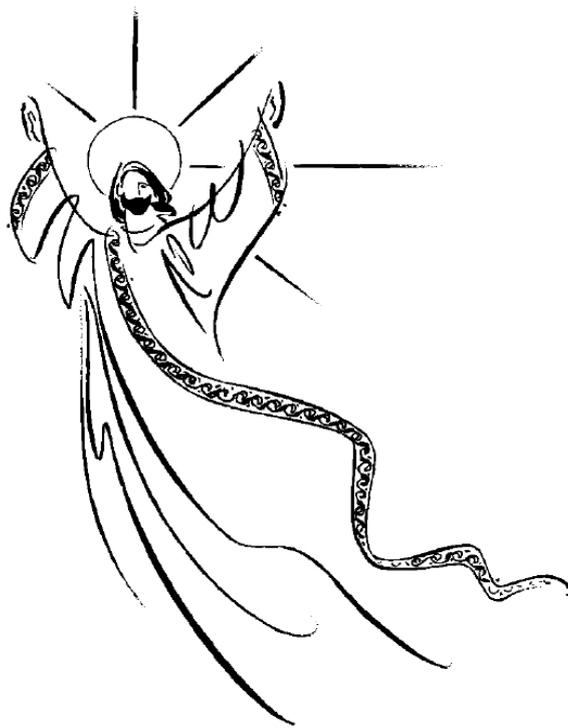


St Mary's Cottingham

Morning Prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost



The nine days between Ascension and Pentecost are kept as days of prayer - for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and for the world, sometimes known as Thy Kingdom Come, a global and ecumenical wave of prayer.

This booklet contains everything you need to pray Morning Prayer, a short service that combines psalms and scripture readings with set prayers and canticles. If you use a mobile phone or tablet you can download the Daily Prayer app for Android or Apple, and this also has the option to listen to a recording. You can use this booklet as you listen, or alone. If you are praying with someone else, one person says the words in ordinary type and the other(s) the words in bold.

I hope you enjoy using this booklet, and that it will help you join in the prayer of the church here in Cottingham and around the world.

The Rector

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Opening Sentences

Ascension Day

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your throne has been established from of old;
you are from everlasting. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, to you be glory and praise for ever. From the darkness of death you have raised your Christ to the right hand of your majesty on high. The pioneer of our faith, his passion accomplished, has opened for us the way to heaven and sends on us the promised Spirit. May we be ready to follow the Way and so be brought to the glory of his presence where songs of triumph for ever sound:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

From the day after Ascension to the day of Pentecost

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
and clothe us with power from on high. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, creator God, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your Spirit moved over the face of the waters bringing light and life to your creation, pour out your Spirit on us today that we may walk as children of light and by your grace reveal your presence. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
 so may the light of your presence, O God,
 set our hearts on fire with love for you;
 now and for ever.
Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody (p.11-23)

The psalms end:

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning is now
 and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

The readings appointed for the day are read.

Old Testament Readings

Ascension Day	Isaiah 52: 7-15
Friday 14 May	1 Samuel 2: 27-35
Monday 17 May	Deuteronomy 31: 1-13
Tuesday 18 May	Deuteronomy 31: 14-29
Wednesday 19 May	Deuteronomy 31: 30-32
Thursday 20 May	Deuteronomy 32: 15-47
Friday 21 May	Deuteronomy 33

New Testament readings are found from page 23 onwards

A reflection follows the readings.

One of these responsories follows the reflection.

Ascension Day

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.
 God has gone up with a merry noise;
sing to the Lord and bless his name.
 The Lord with the sound of the trumpet:
tell out his salvation from day to day.
 He has led captivity captive, and given gifts to his people.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.

From the day after Ascension to the day of Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.
 All who are led by the Spirit of God
 are children of God and fellow-heirs with Christ.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people.
 Renew the face of your creation, Lord,
 pouring on us the gifts of your Spirit,
and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For the creation waits with eager longing
for the glorious liberty of the children of God.
**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Gospel Cantic

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said, preceded and followed by the Refrain.

Refrain for Ascension Day:

**All I am ascending to my Father and to your Father; to my God and your God.
Alleluia.**

Refrain Friday 14 May (St Matthias)

**All You did not choose me but I chose you and I appointed you to go out and bear
fruit, fruit that shall last. Alleluia.**

Refrain Wednesday 20 May (Dunstan)

**All I will give you shepherds after my own heart who will feed you with knowledge
and understanding. Alleluia.**

Refrain Thursday 21 May (Alcuin)

**All They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with
wings as an eagle. Alleluia.**

Ascension Day to Pentecost:

**All Christ has gone up on high
and has led captivity captive. Alleluia.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ◆
who has come to his people and set them free. ◆
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ◆
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ◆
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ◆
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ◆

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68–79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain for Ascension Day:

**All I am ascending to my Father and to your Father; to my God and your God.
Alleluia.**

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**All They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with
wings as an eagle. Alleluia.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for the Church and her life*

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept. The Collect of the day is said

Ascension Day

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Friday 14 May (St Matthias)

Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles, and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sunday after Ascension Day to Pentecost:

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to that place where our Saviour Christ is gone before; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Wednesday 20 May (Dunstan)

Almighty God, who raised up Dunstan to be a true shepherd of the flock, a restorer of monastic life and a faithful counsellor to those in authority: give to all pastors the same

gifts of your Holy Spirit that they may be true servants of Christ and of all his people; 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.**

Thursday 21 May (Alcuin)

God of wisdom, eternal light, who shone in the heart of your servant Alcuin, revealing to him your power and pity: scatter the darkness of our ignorance that, with all our heart and mind and strength, we may seek your face and be brought with all your saints to your holy presence; 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.**

The Lord's Prayer is said

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Ascension Day 13 May	Psalms 110, 150
Friday 14 May	Psalms 16, 147:1-12
Monday 17 May	Psalms 93, 96
Tuesday 18 May	Psalms 98, 100
Wednesday 19 May	Psalm 2, 29
Thursday 20 May	Psalms 24, 72
Friday 21 May	Psalm 28, 30

Psalm 2

- 1 Why are the nations in tumult, ♦
and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?
- 2 The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, ♦
against the Lord and against his anointed:
- 3 'Let us break their bonds asunder ♦
and cast away their cords from us.'
- 4 He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; ♦
the Lord shall have them in derision.
- 5 Then shall he speak to them in his wrath ♦
and terrify them in his fury:
- 6 'Yet have I set my king ♦
upon my holy hill of Zion.'
- 7 I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; ♦
he said to me: 'You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.
- 8 'Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance ♦

and the ends of the earth for your possession.

- 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron ♦
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'
- 10 Now therefore be wise, O kings; ♦
be prudent, you judges of the earth.
- 11 Serve the Lord with fear, and with trembling kiss his feet, ♦
lest he be angry and you perish from the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 12 Happy are all they ♦
who take refuge in him.

Psalm 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; ♦
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, ♦
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; ♦
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, ♦
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas ♦
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, ♦
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, ♦
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, ♦
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, ♦
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 'Who is the King of glory?' ♦
'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦ and the King of
glory shall come in.
- 10 'Who is this King of glory?' ♦
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Psalm 28

- 1 To you I call, O Lord my rock; be not deaf to my cry, ♦ lest, if you do not hear me, I
become like those who go down to the Pit.
- 2 Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you, ♦
when I lift up my hands to your holy of holies.
- 3 Do not snatch me away with the wicked, with the evildoers, ♦ who speak peaceably
with their neighbours, while malice is in their hearts.
- 4 Repay them according to their deeds ♦
and according to the wickedness of their devices.
- 5 Reward them according to the work of their hands ♦
and pay them their just deserts.
- 6 They take no heed of the Lord's doings, nor of the works of his hands; ♦ therefore
shall he break them down and not build them up.
- 7 Blessed be the Lord, ♦ for he has heard the voice of my prayer.

- 8 The Lord is my strength and my shield; ♦
my heart has trusted in him and I am helped;
- 9 Therefore my heart dances for joy ♦
and in my song will I praise him.
- 10 The Lord is the strength of his people, ♦
a safe refuge for his anointed.
- 11 Save your people and bless your inheritance; ♦
shepherd them and carry them for ever.

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ♦
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; ♦
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; ♦
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; ♦
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf ♦
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; ♦
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare; ♦
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; ♦
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
- 10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; ♦
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Psalm 30

- 1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up ♦

and have not let my foes triumph over me.

- 2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you ♦
and you have healed me.
- 3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; ♦
you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.
- 4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; ♦
give thanks to his holy name.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
his favour for a lifetime. ♦
Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
- 6 In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved. ♦
You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my hill so strong.'
- 7 Then you hid your face from me ♦
and I was utterly dismayed.
- 8 To you, O Lord, I cried; ♦
to the Lord I made my supplication:
- 9 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? ♦
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
- 10 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; ♦
O Lord, be my helper.'
- 11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; ♦
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;
- 12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; ♦
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Psalm 72

- 1 Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
- 2 Then shall he judge your people righteously ♦
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
- 4 May he defend the poor among the people, ♦
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, ♦

from one generation to another.

- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, ♦
like the showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦
and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 8 May his dominion extend from sea to sea ♦
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- 9 May his foes kneel before him ♦ and his enemies lick the dust.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; ♦
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
- 11 All kings shall fall down before him; ♦
all nations shall do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, ♦
the needy and those who have no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor; ♦
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, ♦
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15 Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba; ♦
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long.
- 16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth,
standing thick upon the hilltops; ♦
may its fruit flourish like Lebanon
and its grain grow like the grass of the field.
- 17 May his name remain for ever
and be established as long as the sun endures; ♦
may all nations be blest in him and call him blessed.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, ♦
who alone does wonderful things.
- 19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever. ♦
May all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Psalm 93

- 1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel; ♦
the Lord has put on his glory and girded himself with strength.
- 2 He has made the whole world so sure ♦

that it cannot be moved.

- 3 Your throne has been established from of old; ♦
you are from everlasting.
- 4 The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice; ♦
the floods lift up their pounding waves.
- 5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, ♦
the Lord on high is mightier.
- 6 Your testimonies are very sure; ♦
holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦
tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty are before him; ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
- 12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦

with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, ♦
for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm ♦
have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel, ♦
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦
break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, ♦
the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands ♦ and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world ♦
and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 100

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; ♦ serve the Lord with gladness and come
before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God; ♦
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise; ♦
give thanks to him and bless his name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, ♦
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Psalm 110

- 1 The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand, ♦
until I make your enemies your footstool.'
- 2 May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power; ♦
rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies.
- 3 'Noble are you on this day of your birth; ♦
on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn
the dew of your new birth is upon you.'
- 4 The Lord has sworn and will not retract: ♦
'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'
- 5 The king at your right hand, O Lord, ♦
shall smite down kings in the day of his wrath.
- 6 In all his majesty, he shall judge among the nations, ♦
smiting heads over all the wide earth.
- 7 He shall drink from the brook beside the way; ♦
therefore shall he lift high his head.

Psalm 147

- 1 Alleluia.
How good it is to make music for our God, ♦
how joyful to honour him with praise.
- 2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem ♦
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted ♦
and binds up all their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars ♦
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; ♦
his wisdom is beyond all telling.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the poor, ♦
but casts down the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; ♦
make music to our God upon the lyre;
- 8 Who covers the heavens with clouds ♦
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 Who makes grass to grow upon the mountains ♦
and green plants to serve our needs.

- 10 He gives the beasts their food ♦
and the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He takes no pleasure in the power of a horse, ♦
no delight in human strength;
- 12 But the Lord delights in those who fear him, ♦
who put their trust in his steadfast love.

Psalm 150

- 1 Alleluia.
O praise God in his holiness; ♦
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; ♦
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; ♦
praise him upon the harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dances; ♦
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with ringing cymbals; ♦
praise him upon the clashing cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath ♦
praise the Lord. Alleluia.

New Testament Readings

Thursday 13 May

Hebrews 7:[11-25] 26-end

[Now if perfection had been attainable through the levitical priesthood—for the people received the law under this priesthood—what further need would there have been to speak of another priest arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.]

It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life. For it is attested of him,

‘You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.’

There is, on the one hand, the abrogation of an earlier commandment because it was weak and ineffectual (for the law made nothing perfect); there is, on the other hand, the introduction of a better hope, through which we approach God.

This was confirmed with an oath; for others who became priests took their office without an oath, but this one became a priest with an oath, because of the one who said to him,

‘The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest for ever” —

accordingly Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant.

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.]

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

Friday 14 May

Acts 2:37-end

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Monday 17 May

1 Corinthians 3

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

‘He catches the wise in their craftiness’,

and again,

‘The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile.’

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Tuesday 18 May

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Wednesday 19 May

Matthew 3: 13-end

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Thursday 20 May

Matthew 9:35-10:20

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles:

first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew;

James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

Philip and Bartholomew;

Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector;

James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

As you go, proclaim the good news,

"The kingdom of heaven has come near."

Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,
no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff;
for labourers deserve their food.

Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy,
and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it.

If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it;
but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet
as you leave that house or town.

Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day
of judgement than for that town.

'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves;
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their
synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a
testimony to them and the Gentiles.

When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to
say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak,
but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Friday 21 May

Matthew 12:22-32

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so
that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and
said, 'Can this be the Son of David?' But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, 'It is only
by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons.' He knew
what they were thinking and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is laid
waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he
is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I cast out demons by
Beelzebul, by whom do your own exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your
judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God
has come to you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his property,
without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be
plundered. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me
scatters. Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but
blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the

Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

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