

But take courage; I have conquered the world!" Now he prays to the Father. He summarizes the significance of his life. The time appointed by God for his departure (crucifixion, resurrection and ascension) has come. Glory can be defined as divine heavenly splendour where heaven is the state of ultimate good and love existing outside of time. In v. 1, the Father giving this splendour to the Son adds to the Father's splendour because of the "authority" (v. 2) given to the Son over humans, especially "to give eternal life" to us. V. 3 explains that "eternal life" is knowing the Father and the Son intimately. Vv. 4-5 state how the Son adds to the splendour of the Father (by completing his assigned task) and how the Father adds to the Son's splendour: by restoring him to the Father's "presence", to heaven – a state he enjoyed before God's creative act. V. 6 expands on "the work" (v. 4) the Son has done: to make the Father's character and person ("name", v. 6) known to those chosen by the Father. These elect are the mutual possession of Father and Son; these have been faithful to God's "word", his command. Vv. 7-8 expand on keeping the Father's word: the disciples know that: the Father is the source of all that the Son has been given; Jesus is from (out of) the Father; and the Father sent him into the world. Looking forward to the time after his departure, Jesus asks the Father to "protect" (v. 11) the disciples from evil influences in the alien "world", that they may have a unity modelled on that of the Father and the Son. © 1996-2020 Chris Haslam

~ Notices ~

**Ukraine Appeal** [clareanglicans.ie](http://clareanglicans.ie) or: [www.christianaid.ie](http://www.christianaid.ie)

**Turkey and Syria Earthquake relief - Bishop's appeal**  
[www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give)

**Future concerts:**

**Clare Music Makers – end of year concerts**  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> 2.00 pm & Sun 28<sup>th</sup> May, 4.00pm, St Columba's

**Clare Music Makers – Student recitals**  
Sun 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00pm, St Columba's

**Jaskane Trio** – Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June – 5.00pm – St Columba's

**Sinead Nic Sioda & friends** – Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Sept – 7.00pm  
St Columba's

**Meditation** - St Columba's, every Thursday 7.30pm

**Mindfulness Zoom sessions** - The Church of Ireland's Ministry of Healing: Ireland is holding a course on Zoom for all who wish to develop a meditative prayer and mindfulness practice. The sessions will be held on May 21st, May 28th, June 4th, and June 11th, from 9pm to 9.30pm, and will be by Zoom. Sign up via Eventbrite at <https://tinyurl.com/yzaak6xd>

**Book Club** - 1<sup>st</sup> (or 2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuesday of every month – please ask Sue or Carolyn (St C) or Clare (SP) for details.

**Kilfenora news** – We have been awarded the grants both for the ecology/bats and archaeological survey, and also a grant for the 3D scanning of the historical features.

**Final Sunday** – Please note that my final Sunday will be Trinity 3 on the 25<sup>th</sup> June. Moving date is not yet confirmed.

**Website:** [clareanglicans.ie](http://clareanglicans.ie)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans](http://www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans](http://www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans)

**Rector:** Email: [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com)

**Tel:** 065 672 4721

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# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year A) 2023

## Readings and Hymns

### Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

### Suggested Hymns

YouTube links are provided below:

1) The head that once was crowned with thorns (285)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aw2U\\_sf02I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aw2U_sf02I)

2) Lord of all hopefulness (618)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6ztll8Hlbo>

3) God of mercy, God of Grace (398)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvn4OEq9ezU>

### Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

### Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him flee before him.

As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; \*  
as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God \*  
let them be jubilant with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds \*  
his name is the LORD-- be exultant before him. Father of orphans and protector of widows \*  
is God in his holy habitation.

God gives the desolate a home to live in; \*  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, \*  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people, \*  
when you marched through the wilderness,  
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
at the presence of God, \*  
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,  
the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; \*  
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,  
the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; \*  
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,  
the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; \*  
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,  
the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; \*  
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,  
the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; \*  
the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,  
the God of Israel.

you restored your heritage when it languished;  
your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness,\*  
O God, you provided for the needy.  
Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;\*  
sing praises to the Lord, Selah  
O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;\*  
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.  
Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel,\*  
and whose power is in the skies.  
Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel;\*  
he gives power and strength to his people.  
Blessed be God!

### 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

### Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Commentary

**Acts 1:6-14** Acts is addressed to "Theophilus" (v. 1, lover of God) as is Luke. Jesus has risen from death; in Luke 24:42-43, he has eaten "broiled fish" in the presence of the disciples. In Luke 24:44-53, Jesus has told them that: "you are witnesses to these things": that he died and rose to life again; and he is sending upon them "what my Father promised". He has implied that this gift will come to them in Jerusalem (as Acts 1:4 says clearly). He has led them to Bethany (near

Jerusalem) and "was carried up into heaven"; then they "returned to Jerusalem". Acts backtracks: vv. 3-5 say that Jesus "presented himself alive ... during forty days"; "not many days from now" they will receive the Holy Spirit – at Pentecost, the fiftieth day since Easter. Together in Jerusalem, the disciples ask: what will happen in this new era?: either: when will you restore independence to Israel? or is the end of time at hand? Jesus answers (v. 7): only God knows the steps towards the end "times" and the opportune moments ("periods"); the gift, the "Holy Spirit" (v. 8) will give you "power" to spread the good news; not only in Israel but "to the ends of the earth". Vv. 9-10 tell of Jesus' ascension, a clearly visible event set in a historical context. (Note the five words about seeing.) The "cloud" in Elijah's ascension and in Jesus' is a sign of God's presence. But the event goes beyond the physical; it needs interpretation by "two men ...", messengers from God: Jesus' return will be a divine intervention in human affairs. Bethany and the Mount of Olives ("Olivet", v. 12) are adjacent and close to Jerusalem. The eleven disciples possibly return to the site of the Last Supper, "the room upstairs" (v. 13). The band devoted to Jesus now includes "certain women" (v. 14) and Jesus' brothers. ("Judas", v. 13, is not Iscariot.) They meet for liturgical prayer on a regular basis, probably following Temple practices.

**Psalms 68:1-10,32-35** Difficult to interpret, this psalm seems to have accompanied a liturgy (drama) in the Temple depicting the movement of the Israelites from before "Sinai" (v. 8) to Jerusalem (where God dwells, v. 17). It consists of snippets, each a few verses long, commemorating God's championship of Israel. V. 1 echoes Moses' words whenever the Ark was moved (see Numbers 10:35). "As wax melts ..." (v. 2) is the language of God's presence. In Canaanite culture, the storm god, Baal, "rides upon the clouds" (v. 4); here God does so (see also v. 33). He is saviour of the needy and persecutor of the ungodly (vv. 5-6). Judges 5:4-5 also associates earthquakes and deluges with Sinai; water was (and is) valuable in Palestine (vv. 8-10). God's "voice" (v. 33) is probably thunder, a sign of his "power" (vv. 34, 35). May all people everywhere ("kingdoms of the earth", v. 32) praise God! To the early church, this psalm foretold the ascension of Christ.

**1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11** In the final verses of the letter, the author exhorts his readers (who are being persecuted at least to the extent of being made to feel inferior) to accept their "ordeal" as something to be expected and as testing their mettle. Christ is not just an example of suffering-for-doing-good; they are to rejoice that in suffering they actually share in his sufferings. This is preparation for union with him when he comes again ("when his glory is revealed", 4:13). They are indeed fortunate ("blessed", 4:14) that the Spirit, the source of oneness with God ("glory") is with them. For a Christian, to suffer for doing good is not a "disgrace" (4:16). Their suffering is in fact the start of end-time judgement. How much worse off will be those who do not "obey" (4:17) Christ's message! So entrust yourselves to God. In the conclusion, the author addresses fellow "elders" (5:1) as one who shares in the certain hope of Christ's return. He exhorts the leaders to: care for the faithful, oversee them in doctrine and discipline, treat them as equals, and be examples to them. All the faithful must make effort to "humble yourselves" (5:6) before God, who is always the great deliverer and to whom you owe obedience ("mighty hand"), so that in God's time ("due time") you will be brought into full union with him. Trust in God (5:7). Remain "alert" (5:8) for evil is always trying to divert you from God's ways! Others also suffer as you do (5:9b). Your suffering will be brief; then God who has called you to eternal life will give you strength and the status due to you ("establish", 5:10).

**John 17:1-11** Jesus has just ended his instructions to his disciples; he has concluded with "In the world you face persecution.