

SERIES A TEXTS

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious **you** are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of **your** worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore **you** worship as unknown, this I proclaim to **you**. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-- though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of **your** own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹ who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. ¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. ¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; ¹² you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. ¹³ I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, ¹⁴ those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. ¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah ¹⁶ Come and hear, all **you** who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. ¹⁷ I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. ¹⁸ If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹ But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. ²⁰ Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

1st Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm **you** if **you** are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if **you** do suffer for doing what is right, **you** are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in **your** hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make **your** defense to anyone who demands from **you** an accounting for the hope that is in **you**; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep **your** conscience clear, so that, when **you** are maligned, those who abuse **you** for **your** good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing

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good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring **you** to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves **you**-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21

"If **you** love me, **you** will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give **you** another Advocate, to be with **you** forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You** know him, because he abides with **you**, and he will be in **you**. ¹⁸ "I will not leave **you** orphaned; I am coming to **you**. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but **you** will see me; because I live, **you** also will live. ²⁰ On that day **you** will know that I am in my Father, and **you** in me, and I in **you**. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."