

**Sunday 12th May 2024:** Seventh Sunday of Easter and Ascensiontide

*For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.*



**StF 28 'Jesus calls us here to meet him'** by John Bell (b 1949) & Graham Maule (b 1958)

### Opening Prayer

Think of the past week and say both 'thank you' and 'sorry' to our loving God.

**Psalm set for today:** Psalm 1

**StF 80 H&P 563 'My God I am thine'** by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

**Gospel reading set for today:** John 17 v 6 – 19

### To think about

Is there a phrase or sentence in this reading that particularly strikes you as you read it?

**Reading from Acts set for today:** Acts 1 v 15 – 17, 21 – 26

### Message from a Circuit Friend

How often have you come to the end of one book in a series and wanted to quickly move on to the next to see what happens to your favourite characters. This is the situation here. Luke's gospel explains the life and teaching of Jesus and then his death and resurrection. Now 40 days later we read the story of his ascension into heaven and the promise of the Holy Spirit. The close of one era and the start of another. The book of Acts and the work of the early church continues the story. Before He leaves Jesus gives some final instructions... Wouldn't it have been wonderful to be there for that seminar and bible study!

V 45 'Then He opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures'

In this instance explaining how His mission fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. If we aim to follow Jesus, then just reading the Bible isn't enough. We need to pray and work to understand it and how it is relevant to the world today.

V 47 'Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations beginning in Jerusalem'

He left his followers with instructions. To tell everyone and anyone about the good news. The gospel is for all, not just Jews like themselves, but to start their mission close to home. Interacting with people whose values and background are different is challenging. As witnesses to Jesus are we up to that challenge?

V 49 'I am going to send to you what the Father has promised'

The Holy Spirit. The ascension of Jesus marks a new beginning not the end of the story. We await Pentecost when the baton passes to the disciples and down the generations to us. The Holy Spirit brings to us empowerment, transformation and hope. The disciple worshipped Him and returned home with great joy and anticipation. Let's do the same today as we await Pentecost.

**Glyn Constantine (Local Preacher and member of Pilgrim Church Team)**

### Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

**Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...**

**StF 300 H&P 197 'Hail the day that sees him rise'** by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

**May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.**

**Circuit/Wider News:** The annual **Easter Offering Service** is this afternoon at Trinity, Dereham at 3 pm – all welcome.

**Christian Aid Week** is from 12<sup>th</sup> May – 18<sup>th</sup>. If you want to know more and/or to donate online go to [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).