

CHURCH OF TE HEPARA PAI

Sunday 17 May 2015

Te Rātapu Tuawhītu o te Aranga / 7th Sunday of Easter
JESUS, RULER OF THE UNIVERSE



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SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

Jesus prayed, 'Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name. It is the name you gave me. Keep them safe so they can be one, just as you and I are one.' (John 17:11)

COLLECT OF THE DAY – Let us pray.

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he remains joined to us in this world as we obey his commandment to love others, until the end of time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Real Jesus Will Be our Judge



For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is Lord of all the universe! Jesus Christ is God, and is on the throne in heaven ruling over all! He died in our place as a man, on our behalf paying for the consequences of our sin against God so that we might be saved from those consequences and gain eternal life, then rose from the dead and went up to heaven. Today, right now, he is alive and well and ruler of the universe from heaven. The Lord Jesus was exalted by God the Father to be the ruler over all, the Lord of the whole universe, over all things, peoples, planets, and everything! There is no other name that is higher than his, and there is no other name in which man can be saved, except the name of the Lord Jesus.

Even though he rose from the dead and went up to heaven two thousand odd years ago, he is alive and well and ruler of the universe today because he has eternal life (1 Jn. 5:11). He is ruler of the universe because he has the power and authority of God the Father to do so. In the gospel passage for today from John 17, Jesus prayed "**Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name. It is the name you gave me**" (Jn. 17:11). In other words, he prayed "**Protect them by means of your name's power. This is the name that you have given to me.**" By saying this, Jesus was saying that he had the power and authority of God the Father. God the Father had given this power and authority to Jesus. This is because God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are in complete unity with each other.

Jesus' early followers recognised his power and authority to rule in the activities of their daily lives (Acts 1:24-25). Jesus had risen from the dead and had gone up to heaven, but had not as yet sent the Holy Spirit into this world and would not do so until ten days after he had gone. In the meantime, his followers had to choose a replacement apostle who had to be an eye witness of the events of Jesus' public ministry, and particularly that he rose from the dead (Acts 1:21-22). Two were found, equally qualified and apparently equally suitable (Acts 1:23). But his followers could not see the condition of their heart. So they prayed to the ruler of the universe, "**Lord, show us which of these two you have chosen**" (Acts 1:24). Then they cast lots and the Lord of the universe determined how the lot was cast to identify the man after his heart and his sovereign choice between the two of them (Acts 1:26). Casting lots was necessary before the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but when the Holy Spirit of Jesus came he provided the guidance inwardly that had formerly been provided externally by the casting of lots. Christians do not need to cast lots to determine God's will since now the indwelling Holy Spirit of Jesus, the ruler of the universe, provides that guidance. He does so objectively through Scripture and subjectively through impressing his will on yielded believers in response to prayer.

Jesus Christ as the ruler of the universe will one day give a ruling or judgment on your life when you pass from the life of this world. (Refer to bottom picture on front page). If you are found to have put trust in the name of the Son of God during your life in this world, you will be granted eternal life (1 Jn. 5:13).

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - amen.

A reading from Acts chapter 1 beginning at verse 15.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers. About 120 of them were there. ¹⁶ Peter said, "Brothers and sisters, a long time ago the Holy Spirit spoke through David. He spoke about Judas Iscariot. What the Scripture said would happen had to come true. Judas was the guide for the men who arrested Jesus.

¹⁷ But Judas was one of us. He shared with us in our work for God."

²¹ So we need to choose someone to take his place. It will have to be a man who was with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us. ²² That time began when John was baptizing. It ended when Jesus was taken up from us. The one we choose must join us in telling people that Jesus rose from the dead."

²³ So they suggested the names of two men. One was Joseph, who was called Barsabbas. He was also called Justus. The other man was Matthias. ²⁴ Then the believers prayed. They said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen. ²⁵ Show us who should take the place of Judas as an apostle. He gave up being an apostle to go where he belongs." ²⁶ **Then they cast lots. Matthias was chosen. So he was added to the 11 apostles.**

Let us all say together in te reo Māori the reading below from Acts chapter 1 beginning at verse 15. Kia pānui tātou.

¹⁵ I aua ra ka whakatika a Pita i waenganui o nga akonga; a he tokomaha nga tangata i huihui, kei te kotahi rau e rua tekau; a ka mea, ¹⁶ e hoa ma, e oku teina, i tika ano kia whakaritea tenei karaipiture, ta te Wairua Tapu i korerotia ra i mua e te mangai o Rawiri mo Hura, mo te kaiarahi i te hunga nana i hopu a Ihu.

¹⁷ I huihuia tahitia hoki ia ki a tatou, i a ia ano tetahi wahi o tenei mahi.

²¹ No reira, ko nga tangata i haere tahi nei tatou, i nga wa katoa i haereere mai ai, i haereere atu ai te Ariki, a Ihu i roto i a tatou, ²² hei te iriiringa a Hoani timata ai, a tae noa ki te ra i tangohia atu ai ia i a tatou, me whakatu tetahi o era hei hoa mo tatou ki te whakaatu i tona aranga mai.

²³ A tokorua a ratou i whakarite ai, ko Hohepa i huaina nei ko Pahapa, ko tetahi o ona ingoa ko Hutuha, raua ko Matiaha.

²⁴ Na ka inoi ratou, ka mea, ko koe, e te Ariki, e mohio ana ki nga ngakau o te katoa, mau e whakaatu ko wai o tenei tokorua tau i whiriwhiri ai, ²⁵ hei tango i te wahi i tenei mahi minita, i te turanga apotoro hoki, i taka atu a Hura, he mea kia haere ai ia ki tona wahi.

²⁶ Na ka maka e ratou o raua rota; a ka tau te rota ki a Matiaha; a uru ana ia ki nga apotoro tekau ma tahi.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.

PLEASE SPEND SOME TIME EACH DAY PRAYING FOR 'THE BISHOP': THAT HE WILL RECOVER HIS HEALTH; AND GROW IN HUMILITY AND WISDOM THROUGH HIS CIRCUMSTANCES.

A reading from 1 John chapter 5 beginning at verse 9.

⁹ We accept what people say when they are witnesses. But it's more important when God is a witness. That's because it is what God says about his Son. ¹⁰ Who-ever believes in the Son of God accepts what God says about him. Whoever does not believe God is calling him a liar. That's because they have not believed what God said about his Son. ¹¹ ***Here is what God says about the Son. God has given us eternal life. And this life is found in his Son.*** ¹² Whoever belongs to the Son has life. Whoever doesn't belong to the Son of God doesn't have life.

Final Words

¹¹ I'm writing these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. I'm writing so you will know that you have eternal life.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God.
The Holy Gospel according to John chapter 17 beginning at verse 6.
Praise and Glory to God.*

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ "I have shown you to the disciples you gave me out of the world. They were yours. You gave them to me. And they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ I gave them the words you gave me. And they accepted them. They knew for certain that I came from you. They believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world. I am praying for those you have given me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. Glory has come to me because of my disciples. ¹¹ I will not remain in the world any longer. But they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. ***Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of your name. It is the name you gave me. Keep them safe so they can be one, just as you and I are one.*** ¹² While I was with them, I guarded them. I kept them safe through the name you gave me. None of them has been lost, except the one who was headed for ruin. It happened so that Scripture would come true.

¹¹ "I am coming to you now. But I say these things while I am still in the world. I say them so that those you gave me can have the same joy that I have. ¹⁴ I have given them your word. The world has hated them. That's because they are not part of the world any more than I am. ¹⁵ I do not pray that you will take them out of the world. I pray that you will keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to it. ¹⁷ Use the truth to make them holy. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ You sent me into the world. In the same way, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ I make myself holy for them so that they too can be made holy by the truth.

This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to Christ, the Word.