

Scripture Reading for May 1
John 17:20-24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 4:1-6 (CEB)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our first reading comes from the words of Jesus' prayer in the gospel according to John 17:20-24. Hear the words of our Lord:

20 "I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. 21 I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. 22 I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. 23 I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me.

Our second reading comes from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, chapter 12, verses 12-14:

12 Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. 13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. 14 Certainly the body isn't one part but many.

Our third reading comes from Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, chapter 4, verses 1-6:

4 Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. 2 Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, 3 and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. 4 You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

We thank God for God's eternally relevant Word. Amen.