

## **Readings May 7, 2023**

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

#### **First Reading: Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son-of-Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged Stephen out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

## **Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and  
my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength. R**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those  
who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love." **R**

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to the Lord, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in it will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, it is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup>and "A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light of God.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

## **Gospel: John 14:1-14**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know and have seen my Father.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but it is the Father who dwells in me who does these works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.