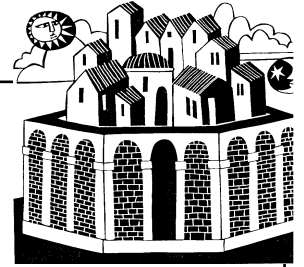


## Fifth Sunday of Easter A



*Antiphon:* **O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations  
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.**

Jesus assures us that ultimately all of us have a home to go to - the Father's house. He promises to prepare a place for us in that house. This is a cause of tremendous hope for us.

Our sins cause us to stumble on the road to God's house. Let us confess them, asking forgiveness from God and from one another.

Lord Jesus, you redeemed us by your blood. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are raised up to glory. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you pour out the Holy Spirit on all of us. Lord, have mercy.

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Let us pray:*

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them. 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves, to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread; the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19

**Response: May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in You.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

**May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in You.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love.  
**May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in You.**

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.  
**May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in You.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said:  
'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.'  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

John 14: 1-12

**And with your spirit.**

**Glory to you, Lord.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied." "Have I been with you all this time, Philip," said Jesus to him "and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Let us see the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason! I tell you solemnly, whoever believes in me, will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The profession of Faith*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Prayer over the Offerings*

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Preface:*

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,  
but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously,  
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.  
By the oblation of his Body,  
he brought the sacrifices of old to fulfilment  
in the reality of the Cross  
and, by commending himself to you for our salvation,  
showed himself the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of sacrifice.  
Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,  
every land, every people exults in your praise  
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,  
sing together the unending hymn of your glory as they acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The mystery of faith. **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

*Communion Antiphon:* **I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.  
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**

REFLECTION

Going to heaven!

Going to heaven ... I don't know when ... pray do not ask me how! Going to heaven ... how dim it sounds! And yet it will be done ... as sure as flocks go home at night unto the shepherd's arm. If you should get there first, save just a little place for me ... close to the two I lost. The smallest 'robe' will fit me, and just a bit of 'crown'; for you know we do not mind our dress when we are going home.

*Prayer after Communion:*

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Final Blessing:*

The Lord be with you.

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Go forth, the Mass is ended alleluia.

**And with your spirit.**

**Amen.**

**Thanks be to God alleluia.**

Pope Francis writes in *Let us Dream*:

"For a long time we carried on thinking we could be healthy in a world that was sick. But the pandemic has brought home how important it is to work for a healthy world ... The green and the social go hand in hand. The fate of creation is tied to the fate of all humanity."