

SUNDAY 3rd MAY 2026 - 5th of Easter

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace
going before us you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



1st Reading - Acts 7.55-60

Standing before the high priest and the council,
Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into
heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at
the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the
heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the
right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and
with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
Then they dragged him out of the city and began to
stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet
of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning
Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'
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 from Psalm 31



I trust in you, O Lord, for you are my God.

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. **℟**
Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold;
Guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth **℟**
My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
'Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and save me for your mercy's sake.' **℟**

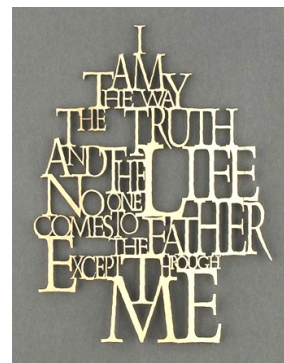
2nd Reading - 1 Peter 2.2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual
milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if
indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to
him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet
chosen and precious in God's sight, and 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. For it stands
in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever
believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then
who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not
believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has
become the very head of the corner', 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. 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 him who
called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
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 Reading - John 14.1-14

Jesus said to his disciples:
'Do not let your hearts be
troubled. Believe in God,
believe also in me. 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? 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.
And you know the way to the
place where I am going.'
Thomas said to him, 'Lord,
we do not know where you
are going. How can we know
the way?' Jesus said to him,
'I am the way, and the truth,
and the life. No one comes
to the Father except through
me. If you know me, you will
know my Father also. From
now on you do know him and
have seen him.' Philip said
to him, 'Lord, show us the
Father, and we will be
satisfied.' 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"? 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 the Father who
dwells in me does his works.
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. 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. I will do whatever you
ask in my name, so that the
Father may be glorified in the
Son. If in my name you ask
me for anything, I will do it.'



Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

