

**5th SUNDAY OF EASTER — Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
**COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**THE 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.

**1<sup>st</sup> READING: Acts 7:55-end**

<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 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. <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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 him, 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 him will not be put to shame.'*

<sup>7</sup>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',*

<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 him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

<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.

**THE GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

'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 him, '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 him and have seen him.'

<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 the Father who dwells in me does his 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.

**THE 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.