

## Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

### FIRST READING

*Acts 6:1-7*

As the number of disciples continued to grow,  
the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews  
because their widows  
were being neglected in the daily distribution.  
So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said,  
"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.  
Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men,  
filled with the Spirit and wisdom,  
whom we shall appoint to this task,  
whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer  
and to the ministry of the word."  
The proposal was acceptable to the whole community,  
so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,  
also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,  
and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.  
They presented these men to the apostles  
who prayed and laid hands on them.  
The word of God continued to spread,  
and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly;  
even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19*

**R Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Exult, you just, in the LORD;  
praise from the upright is fitting.  
Give thanks to the LORD on the harp;  
with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.

**R Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

Upright is the word of the LORD,  
and all his works are trustworthy.  
He loves justice and right;

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of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

**R Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.** See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine.

**R Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

## **SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 2:4-9**

Beloved:

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, 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 says in Scripture:

*Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.*

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall.*

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

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## **GOSPEL**

**John 14:1-12**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, 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, then you will also know my Father.

From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip?

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 speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

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## **Discussion for Readings - Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A**

The readings show how the early Church grew, how believers are called to be living stones, and how Jesus is the way to the Father. Every reading this Sunday has something direct and urgent to say about what it means to lead — not with power, but with purpose, humility, and total reliance on Christ.

1. If the people you encounter were asked, "Does this person's life make you want to know God more?" — what would you want them to say? Do you think that's what they would say?
2. Philip says, "Show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus responds that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. The greatest witness you can give is what you say — it's how you live your life. What does your life currently reveal about who you believe God is?
3. Do I respond to problems by protecting my own role, or by helping the group find a wise solution like the apostles did in Acts 6, where they appointed deacons to help?
4. In what ways are you stumbling by not following Christ's word/way?

What are you going to do now, given what you've heard and discussed tonight? How are you going to take this discussion to become the cornerstone for our families?