

5th Sunday of Easter

3rd May 2026 Readings

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32:1-2,4-5,18-19 Response v.22

R/. *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. **R/.**

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. **R/.**

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. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be

put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' 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, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the
Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to 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 had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, 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 say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



5th SUNDAY of EASTER

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Sunday 3rd May 2026

**Saints Philip and James,
Apostles**

In the gospel of St. John Jesus makes a series of powerful symbolic statements, each of which begins with the famous words “I am”, in which he likens himself to various images and things which illustrate some dimension of his person and mission; for example, “I am the bread of life”, “I am the light of the world”, and “I am the good shepherd”. In today’s gospel reading from the fourteenth chapter of St. John, he says: “I am the way, the truth, and the life”.

Coming in the penultimate moments of Jesus’ presence with his disciples his saying reminds the reader that Jesus himself is both the object and goal of our faith (the truth and the life) and the path which we must follow in order to arrive at that goal (the way).

First, he is the truth and the life itself in that he is the very image of the Father who is the source of all being and goodness: “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him”. Jesus makes it clear in John’s gospel that he is equal to the Father and can never be separated from the Father from whom he came forth before all time.

In this particular passage he expresses this message through the actions of seeing, knowing, and believing. To see, know, and believe in Jesus is to see, know, and believe in the Father, and to have eternal life on account of that belief. Jesus is thus the unique source of life and salvation for all who desire to share in the glory and love of the God who was first revealed through the law and the prophets, and who has now been revealed perfectly in Jesus himself.

Second, Jesus is the way we must follow in order to arrive at our goal of unity with the Father. In the second reading from the First Letter of Peter, we learn that to follow the way of Jesus is to let ourselves “be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”; that is, to become like Jesus by freely offering ourselves to God—giving ourselves over completely to Jesus, just as he gave himself over completely to the Father for the sake of our salvation. When we do this we imitate his self-giving love and are thus, “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own”, united to God in Jesus through our faith in him. We take to heart the gospel for this fifth Sunday of Easter if we trust in the One who is “the truth, and the life”, and if we seek to walk faithfully on “the way” of charity, justice, and compassion which he has shown us - as a people who are one with the Father through our oneness in Jesus.



Philip was born at Bethsaida and started as a disciple of John the Baptist. After the Baptist’s death he followed Christ.

James the son of Alphaeus is called “James the Less”, to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee. James “the brother of the Lord” ruled the Church at Jerusalem; wrote an epistle; led an austere life; and converted many Jews to the Faith. He was crowned

with martyrdom in the year 62.

Jerome held these two Jameses to be the same person, and this was certainly the prevailing opinion when the feast of Philip and James was instituted in 560. Nowadays scholars prefer to divide them, in which case we might think of today as being the feast of Philip and James and James.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for King Charles III

For Charles our King, that you may pour upon him abundant gifts to help him fulfil the promises made at his coronation.

That he will have the grace, wisdom, and strength to live a life of service to you and to his people.

Amen.