

## ENTRANCE 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.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**For we have sinned against you.**

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**And grant us your salvation.**

May almighty God have mercy on us.....Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

## THE GLORIA

**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.**



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING Acts 6: 1-7

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

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

**R. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. or Alleluia!**

1. 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]**
2. 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]**
3. 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 1 Peter 2:4 - 9

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

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 the darkness into his wonderful light.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**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 John 14:1-12

**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.'



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 7th May 2023

The centre of Christianity is not a rule of law, a code of behaviour, but a Person whose love we receive and whose life we imitate. Jesus is in this manner, "the way, the truth and the life."



*'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.'*



Rooms in a house are memorable and important; like the parlour in the old Irish houses. The dining room, bathroom and kitchen— all were rooms with different functions and different hospitalities. Jesus uses a

usual image to communicate, like he does with plants, family and harvest.

Religion is ordinary. Our family house, apartment or a tent in a desert is a house of God. Jesus preached much more in people's houses – in the house of the paralysed man, the home of Martha and Mary, the sinner Zachaeus. What is more ordinary than saying the room in my heart is the room of God, that 'the word was made flesh and lived among us'?

Thinking of houses and homes, we remember the tragedy of the homeless in our cities. It's not right. People need rooms. If we are in the Father's house ourselves, we can think of the many vacant rooms and houses in Ireland. We salute to Peter McVerry, Sister Stan, Threshold, and others who ensure that the rooms of God in our country are not left empty.

We remember also that the rooms of Jesus are for the future, and we hear this gospel often at a funeral. A room is prepared for each of us. For now, his room is in our heart – in there lives the way of life, the truth of life and the one who enlivens us. He invites others into our rooms that they may find him.

*Lord Jesus, you are the way that guides our steps in life, the truth that enlightens our minds and the life that gives love to our hearts.*

*Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.*

'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 most 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.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**All bow for following two lines:**

**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.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Pray brothers and sisters, .....*

**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.**

## AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**The mystery of faith.**

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