

Sunday, May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

First Reading Acts 7:55-60
Psalm Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Second Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10

A READING FROM ACTS

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then 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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 31st PSALM IN UNISON

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;

deliver me | in your righteousness.

²Incline your | ear to me;

make haste to de- | liver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me, for you are my tow- | er of strength. R

⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,

for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are ^l in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ^l
persecute me.**

¹⁶**Let your face shine up- ^l on your servant;
save me in your ^l steadfast love.” R**

A READING FROM 1ST PETER

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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.”

⁷To 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,”

⁸and

“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.

⁹But 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 marvelous light.

¹⁰Once 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 WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD**

Sunday, May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

First Reading Acts 17:22-31
Psalm Psalm 66:8-20
Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

A READING FROM ACTS

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 66th PSALM IN UNISON

**⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.**

**⁹Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R**

**¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.**

**¹¹You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

**¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and
water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.**

**¹³I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**

**¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.**

**¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of
rams;**

I will give you ox- | en and goats. R

**¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.**

**¹⁷I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

**¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;**

**¹⁹but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

**²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. R**

A READING FROM 1ST PETER

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, May 21, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year A

First Reading Acts 1:6-14
Psalm Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
Second Reading 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A READING FROM ACTS

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 68th PSALM IN UNISON

- ¹Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;
let those who | hate God flee.**
- ²As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
pres- | ence of God.**
- ³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.**
- ⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides
the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice | before God! R**
- ⁵In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;
⁶you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into
freedom;
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**
- ⁷O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,
⁸the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the
presence of God, the | God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**
- ⁹You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.**
- ¹⁰Your people found their | home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the
poor. R**
- ³²Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.**
- ³³You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**
- ³⁴Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.**
- ³⁵How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God! R**

A READING FROM 1ST PETER

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD

Sunday, May 28, 2023
Day of Pentecost, Year A

First Reading Acts 2:1-21
Psalm Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

A READING FROM ACTS

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above

and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

*(If the Psalm is sung by the choir, you will not be required to lead the Psalm.
Check the day's worship bulletin to confirm one way or the other)*

PLEASE JOIN ME IN READING THE 104th PSALM IN UNISON

²⁴**How manifold are your | works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your
creatures.**
²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y
to number,
living things both | small and great.**
²⁶**There go the ships | to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.**
²⁷**All of them | look to you
to give them their food | in due season. R**
²⁸**You give it to them; they | gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.**
²⁹**When you hide your face, | they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return | to their
dust.**
³⁰**You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;
and so you renew the face | of the earth.**
³¹**May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in | all your works. R**
³²**You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.**
³³**I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;
I will praise my God while I | have my being.**
³⁴**May these words of | mine please God.
I will rejoice | in the LORD.**
^{35^b}**Bless the LORD, | O my soul.
Hal- | lelujah! R**

A READING FROM 1ST CORINTHIANS

^{3b}No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

THE WORD OF THE LORD
THANKS BE TO GOD