

Fifth Sunday of Easter
St Stephen Deacon & Martyr Parish
May 2, 2021

Entrance Hymn: "All People That On Earth Do Dwell"

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
come now before him and rejoice!

Know that the LORD is God indeed;
he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he surely feeds,
the sheep who by his hand were made.

Reading I

Acts 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples,
but they were all afraid of him,
not believing that he was a disciple.
Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles,
and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord,
and that he had spoken to him,
and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.
He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem,
and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord.
He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists,
but they tried to kill him.
And when the brothers learned of this,
they took him down to Caesarea
and sent him on his way to Tarsus.
The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace.
It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord,
and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

Responsorial Psalm

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.

The lowly shall eat their fill;
they who seek the LORD shall praise him:
“May your hearts live forever!”

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of the nations
shall bow down before him.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

To him alone shall bow down
all who sleep in the earth;
before him shall bend
all who go down into the dust.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

And to him my soul shall live;
my descendants shall serve him.
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD
that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born
the justice he has shown.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Reading II

1 Jn 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.
Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
and reassure our hearts before him
in whatever our hearts condemn,
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God

and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
And his commandment is this:
we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.
Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit he gave us.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.
Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:
“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.
You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.
Remain in me, as I remain in you.
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own
unless it remains on the vine,
so neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
will be thrown out like a branch and wither;
people will gather them and throw them into a fire
and they will be burned.
If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.
By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For the Church, that we may continue to blossom on the true vine that is Jesus Christ,
exercising true discipleship and bearing fruit in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who live in countries or regions where they are persecuted or oppressed, who live in fear of bearing fruit, that justice and peace may bloom in the darkness, let us pray to the Lord.

For all living things that return to life in the spring—budding trees, flowering plants, fruitful vegetation, and spreading vines—that they may blossom in their full glory as God created them, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the newly baptized this Easter season, that they may form strong and fruitful branches on the true vine, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are lonely or isolated, that their connection to the true vine may be sustained and strengthened and they may know their value in God's eyes, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are ill with the coronavirus: that God's healing love will touch them, relieve their suffering, and restore them to health, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who work to provide essential services during this pandemic, that they may find the strength and energy to continue the work they are doing and they be kept safe in all that they do for those in their care, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who have died from the Corona Virus pandemic, that we may know their presence eternally in the communion of saints, let us pray to the Lord.

For Theresa Manikowski, Sophie Pierczynski, Jean Magiera, Guy Greben, Gilbert Palmer, John Francis Foley, Wallace Darnell, Charles Varkalis IV, Diane & Ken Grignac, Ubaldo Perez, the McLean Family, Danial Golfo, and for the parishioners of St. Stephen's, for whom this Mass is being offered, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers in our parish intention book, for the prayer requests that have been sent in and for all the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts (PAUSE)..., let us pray to the Lord

Preparation of the Gifts

“By Our Love”

When we feed the hungry, they will know by our love, lifting up the lowly, by our love,
by our love. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Welcome to the stranger, they will know by our love, shelter for the homeless,
by our love, by our love. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. Refrain

Communion

“We Are Many Parts”

We are many parts
We are all one body.
And the gifts we have,
We were given to share.

May the spirit of love, make us one indeed;
One, the Love that we share;
One, our hope and despair;
One, the cross that we bear.

God of all, we look to you,
We would be your servants true,
Let us be your love for all the world

We are many parts
We are all one body.
And the gifts we have,
We were given to share.

May the spirit of love, make us one indeed;
One, the Love that we share;
One, our hope and despair;
One, the cross that we bear.

Recessional

“Go Make of All Disciples!”

Go make of all disciples
We hear the call O Lord
That comes from Thee our Father
In Thy eternal Word
Inspire our ways of learning
Through earnest fervent prayer
And let our daily living
Reveal Thee everywhere

Go make of all disciples
Baptizing in the name
Of Father Son and Spirit
From age to age the same
We call each new disciple
To follow Thee O Lord
Redeeming soul and body
By water and the Word