

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING (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 (PSALM 22)

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

SECOND READING (1 JOHN 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.

GOSPEL (JOHN 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.”



MASS MUSIC

ENTRANCE – THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.
2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.
3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

OFFERTORY – WE HAVE BEEN TOLD

We have been told, we've seen his face and heard his voice alive in our hearts:

“live in my love with all your heart; as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.”

1. “I am the vine, you are the branches, and all who live in me will bear great fruit.”
2. “You are my friends, if you keep my commands; no longer slaves, I call you friends.”
3. “No greater love is there than this: to lay down one's life for a friend.

COMMUNION – IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

In the breaking of the bread we have known him; we have been fed.

Jesus the stranger, Jesus the Lord, be our companion; be our hope.

1. Bread for the journey, strength for our years,
manna of ages, of struggle and tears.
Cup of salvation, fruit of the land,
bless and receive now, the work of our hands.

2. Bread of the promise, people of hope,
wine of compassion, life for the world.
Gathered at table, joined as his body
sealed in the Spirit, sent by the Word.

CLOSING – O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word;
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
2. The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
Its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
But hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
Though small in mortal stature to heaven's garden grown.
For Christ, the man from heaven, from death has set us free,
And we through him are given the final victory!