

Today in Focus

MAY 10 » FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Continue Jesus' mission!



Today's gospel begins what is called Jesus' "farewell discourse" in John's gospel. He is saying goodbye, and the disciples are distressed. So Jesus makes some remarkable claims: that he will come back for them, that they already know the way to where he is going, that in seeing him they have seen the Father, and, finally, that they will do greater works than Jesus himself! What could Jesus possibly mean?

Consider: Jesus healed many people. He fed thousands upon thousands. And how many people have received medical attention from Christ's followers since? How many have been fed? How many consoled? How many have had the good news preached to them? The answer should stun us, for it is both untold millions and not nearly enough.

In today's first reading, the resources of the early Church are challenged. The task of being Church to those in need is too big. In the face of that need new gifts are discerned, called forth, and blessed. And, as will happen again today at thousands of Masses around the world, people are fed and the gospel is preached. Let's not stop there. ● **BRETT SALKELD**

Sunday May 10

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(Cf. *Psalm 98* [97]:1-2)

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.

INTRODUCTORY RITES (page 27)

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the
Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to
make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective
care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life
eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING (Acts 6:1-7)

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the **Hellenists**+ complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall

Key to the Word

+ Hellenists Hellenists (from the Greek for Greece, *Hellas*) were those from other nations who spoke Greek and were more receptive to the influence of Greek culture. Though the Romans ruled the Mediterranean nations, Greek literature and ideas formed the basis for education, and the Greek language was used for international communication and business. To be educated often meant to be able to speak and read Greek (like St. Paul and the other New Testament authors who all wrote in Greek). For Jews, Hellenism posed a threat because its education was rooted in religious beliefs and social values that were not compatible with the Israelite belief that Yahweh was the one and only God (monotheism).

appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to

spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(*Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19*)

**R: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

OR Alleluia.

Exult, you just, in the LORD;

praise from the upright is fitting.

Give thanks to the LORD
on the harp;
with the ten-stringed lyre
chant his praises.

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

OR Alleluia.

Upright is the word
of the LORD,
and all his works
are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD
the earth is full. **R.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are
upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope
for his kindness,

To deliver them from death
and preserve them
in spite of famine. **R.**

SECOND READING (1 Peter 2:4-9)

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious

in the sight of God, and, like 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.

For it says in Scripture:

*Behold, I am laying a stone
in Zion,
a cornerstone, chosen
and precious,
and whoever believes in it
shall not be put to shame.*

Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith:

*The stone that the builders
rejected
has become the cornerstone,
and*

*A stone that will make
people stumble,
and a rock that will make
them fall.*

They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy

nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA (*John 14:6*)

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (*John 14:1-12*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare

a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, 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 know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time 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 speak to

you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(page 30)*

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

PREPARATION OF GIFTS *(page 32)*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to

know your truth,
we may make it ours by a
worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE *(Easter, pages 33-34)*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

(Cf. John 15:1, 5)

I am the true vine and you
are the branches, says the
Lord. Whoever remains in
me, and I in him, bears fruit
in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your
people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have
imbued with heavenly
mysteries
to pass from former ways
to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL *(page 58)*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Jesus tells us that we can only survive if we join ourselves to his life.

● **What can I do this week to invite Jesus to “remain in me”?**

Jesus, I will...

SAYING AMEN

The Prayer after Communion asks God to lead us “from former ways to newness of life.”

● **What “former way” do I need to leave behind to follow Christ more fully?**

Lord, help me...

✦ SEE PAGES 22-24 FOR MORE REFLECTIONS ON TODAY’S GOSPEL READING. ✦

Living with Christ This Week

FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

Every Eucharist celebrates God’s kingdom community. This week, we continue to follow Paul’s missionary journeys to establish new Christian communities. In the gospels, Jesus discusses the special nature and depth of God’s love. He promises that living in relationship with him will bring about new learning through the Holy Spirit, peace, joy, love for one another, and also suffering in the service of others. ●

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Use these intercessions with your prayers this week.

- For those in healing professions:
℞ **Bless and empower your people, O Lord.**
- For those striving to bring peace to our troubled world: ℞
- For those who bring joy to others:
℞
- For those who give hope to all who are in distress: ℞