

READINGS

Acts 7:54-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,

help us in our unbelief,

that we may know your Son Jesus Christ

as Way, Truth, and Life.

Give us grace to love one another

and walk in the way of his commandments,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of love,

in this Eucharist we have heard your truth,

and we have shared in your life:

now may we always walk in your way,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:54-60

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the Sanhedrin had heard the things Stephen said to them concerning Israel's apostasy through the ages, the members of the council became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen.

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Chosen One standing at the right hand of God!"

But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then 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.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "O God, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O God, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

**Incline your ear to me;
do not be slow to deliver me.**

Be 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.**

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth.**

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

**Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving kindness save me."**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, thirst for the pure spiritual milk, so that thereby you may grow into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that God is good.

Come to the One who is a living stone—though rejected by mortals, yet chosen and precious in God's sight—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 the scripture stands that says:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him
will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, this One is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and, "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.

But 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 the One who called you out of darkness into a marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-14

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Holy Gospel

of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News

of Jesus Christ

according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Rabbi, 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, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Rabbi, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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 say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

"Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.