

## Fifth Sunday of Easter : May 7, 2023

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup> I come to you, Lord, for protection; never let me be defeated. You are a righteous God; save me I pray!

<sup>2</sup> **Hear me! Save me now! Be my refuge to protect me; my defense to save me.**

<sup>3</sup> You are my refuge and defense guide me and lead me as you have promised.

<sup>4</sup> **Keep me safe from the trap that has been set for me; shelter me from danger.**

<sup>5</sup> I place myself in your care. You will save me, Lord; you are a faithful God.

<sup>15</sup> **I am always in your care, save me from my enemies, from those who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Look on your servant with kindness; save me in your constant love.

### Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw God's glory and Jesus standing at the right side of God.<sup>56</sup> "Look!" he said. "I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!"<sup>57</sup> With a loud cry the Council members covered their ears with their hands. Then they all rushed at him at once,<sup>58</sup> threw him out of the city, and stoned him. The witnesses left their cloaks in the care of a young man named Saul.<sup>59</sup> They kept on stoning Stephen as he called out to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"<sup>60</sup> He knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord! Do not remember this sin against them!" He said this and died.

### 1 Peter 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup> Be like newborn babies, always thirsty for the pure spiritual milk, so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved.<sup>3</sup> As the scripture says, "You have found out for yourselves how kind the Lord is."<sup>4</sup> Come to the Lord, the living stone rejected by man as worthless but chosen by God as valuable.<sup>5</sup> Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple, where you will serve as holy priests to offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup> For the scripture says "I chose a valuable stone, which I am placing as the cornerstone of Zion; and who ever believes in him will never be disappointed."<sup>7</sup> This stone is of great value for you that believe; but for those who do not believe; "The stone which the

builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all."<sup>8</sup> And another scripture says, "This is the stone that will make people stumble, the rock that will make them fall." They stumbled because they did not believe in the word; such was God's will for them.<sup>9</sup> But you are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvelous light.<sup>10</sup> At one time you were not God's people, but now you are his people; at one time you did not know God's mercy, but now you have received his mercy.

### John 14:1-14

<sup>1</sup> "Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe in God and believe also in me.<sup>2</sup> There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if this were not so.<sup>3</sup> And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am."<sup>4</sup> You know the way that leads to the place where I am going."<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?"<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.<sup>7</sup> Now that you have known me," he said to them, "you will know my Father also, and from now on you do know him and you have seen him."<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need."<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, 'Show us the Father'?<sup>10</sup> Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you," Jesus said to his disciples, "do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own work.<sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do.<sup>12</sup> I am telling you the truth: whoever believes in me will do what I do - yes, he will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father.<sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son.<sup>14</sup> If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.