

# Readings May 3, 2026 – 5th Sunday of Easter

## First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

(The ministry of deacons in the early Church)

<sup>1</sup> Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, <sup>4</sup> while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” <sup>5</sup> What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup> They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 146

(A mouth full of praise)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**<sup>4</sup> When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**<sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**  
(You are a chosen people)

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

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

<sup>7</sup>This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,  
“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**