

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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(Please don't forget to turn the microphone on before you begin)

First Reading Acts 9:26-31
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

(Please leave a 25 second pause for silent reflection after the reading).

THE PSALM Ps 21:26-28. 30-32.

My vows I will pay before those who fear the Lord.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek God.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before God.
They shall worship the Lord,
all the mighty of the earth;
before the Lord shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for God,
my children serve the Lord.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare God's faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.'

(there is no pause for reflection after the psalm - you can move straight on to the second reading)

Second Reading

1 Jn 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask God,
we shall receive,
because we keep God's commandments
and live the kind of life that God wants.
God's commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as God told us to.
Whoever keeps God's commandments
lives in God and God lives in them.
We know that God lives in us
by the Spirit that God has given us.
The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

(Please leave a 25 second pause for silent reflection after the reading).

(The Gospel Acclamation will be a sung version so you can leave the lectern as soon as you finish the Second Reading)

(Please turn the microphone OFF when you leave the lectern)

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(Please don't forget to turn the microphone on before you begin)

Celebrant:*says a few words of introduction*

Reader:

We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Anthony, and all who serve in the Church - that they may inspire us to be people of Easter hope and joy. ...*Pause*....
Lord hear us.

Reader:

We pray that all of us gathered here at this table of the Eucharist may be a source of hope and strength for one another as fellow members of Christ's Body... *Pause*...Lord hear us.

Reader

We pray for the children of our parish who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation: that their hearts will always be open to the gift and the challenge of the Holy Spirit.....*Pause*...Lord hear us

Reader:

We pray for those who are sick, and for those who care for the sick: especially those in our world who have fallen sick due to the pandemic - that they may perceive the gentle presence of God with them on their journey...*Pause*....Lord hear us.

Reader

We pray for our fellow local Christian Churches.
This week we pray especially for Rev. John Dickson and the congregation at St Andrew's Anglican Church at Roseville...*Pause*.....Lord hear us.

Celebrant:

Loving God,
hear these our prayers,
and help us to work for that unity between all disciples, and amongst all humanity, for which Jesus prayed at his Last Supper.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Please turn the microphone OFF when you leave the lectern)